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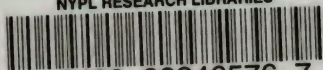
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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND R.: A.: CHAPTER
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

For the Year 1868.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

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CEREMONIES

ON THE OCCASION OF

CONSTITUTING

THE

Grand R. A. Chapter

AND THE

INSTALLATION OF THE GRAND OFFICERS,

TOGETHER WITH THE

Inaugural Address of the G. H. Priest,

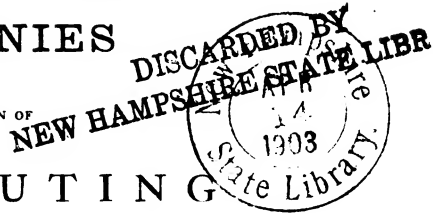
J. E. F. HOLMEAD,

May 23d, 1867.

Ordered to be published by the Grand R. A. Chapter
of the District of Columbia.

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PROCEEDINGS.

THE Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia having been dissolved by vote of said Grand Chapter, the Chapters in the District of Columbia assembled, by delegates duly appointed by said Chapters, and formed the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia—the following Chapters being represented in the Convention, viz: Potomac Chapter, No. 8; Columbia Chapter, No. 15; Washington Chapter, No. 16; and Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 20.

The Convention, having perfected all the arrangements for the organization of the Grand Chapter, appointed Thursday, May 23, 1867, as the time, and Wall's Opera House, in the City of Washington, as the place for the constituting of the Grand Chapter and the installing of the Grand Officers.

Upon the day appointed, the Grand Lodge of F. . . A. . . M. . . of the District of Columbia, together with the constituent Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies of K. . . T. . . of the District of Columbia, assembled at Central Masonic Hall, at 5 o'clock P. M., and were formed in procession under the order of Bro. W. H. ORCUTT, Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, and took up a line of march through some of the principal streets of the City, and arrived at Wall's Opera House at 8 o'clock, when the meeting was called to order by M. . . W. . . GEO. C. WHITING, G. . . M. . . of Masons of the District of Columbia, who stated the object which had brought them together, and introduced Bro. J. N. COOMBS, Grand Chaplain of the District of Columbia, who offered an appropriate prayer to the great I AM. After music by the Masonic Choir of the District of Columbia, M. . . W. . . Bro. WHITING, introduced M. . . E. . . Companion ALBERT G. MACKEY, P. . . G. . . G. . . High Priest of the United States, who delivered a very instructive address upon the Symbolism of Masonry. Upon the conclusion of his address, Comp. MACKEY announced that he was prepared to enter upon the discharge of the duty assigned him of installing the Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, when P. . . G. . . H. . . Priest Comp. B. B. FRENCH, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, introduced M. . . E. . . Companion J. E. F. HOLMEAD, G. . . H. . . P. . . elect, for installation. M. . . E. . . Companion HOLMEAD, having been duly installed as Grand High Priest, delivered the following inaugural address:

M. E. Sir, Companions, Brethren, and Sir Knights :

Disraeli has said: "The aruspex, the auger, and the astrologer, have vanished with their own superstitions, but the moral and the political predictor, proceeding on principles authorized by nature and experience, has become more skilful in his observations on the phenomena of human history; and it has often happened that a tolerable philosopher has not made an indifferent prophet."

While I make no claim to be considered even a "tolerable philosopher," yet I am willing, looking toward the future with intenseness of thought and feeling, to run all risks of being adjudged even less than an "indifferent prophet" when I predict that the event, which to-night we inaugurate, upon the future page of the keeper of masonic records, shall be written and emblazoned, as in times of old were heraldic achievements, with an eclat of surpassing greatness and grandeur.

We hold that we over-estimate not the importance and dignity of the event when we say that here, in the metropolis of the nation, a crisis has been reached, indicated by the imposing and solemn ceremonial through which we have passed, which tells, not only that the incubus, which had well nigh drawn out the last life breath of Capitular Masonry, had been dislodged; but, that in its stead life and light had come, imparting through all the various channels of the craft, new haleness and fresh hopes to cheer the hitherto desponding and despairing hearts of those whose faith had taught them, while making the estimate of the phenomena of daily developments, that the age in which we live *is the age of progress—of mental, moral, and religious progress.* And all this we say, maugre the discontents of those whose eyes look not beyond the horizon inscribed by the hand of the past, as though there lay not before us a vast future, within whose folds are gathered the rich accumulation of all the ages past, the experience and the wisdom of the wise, the great, and the good.

But we ask with emphasis, why should not, in this destined to be the great city of the nation, the masonic order keep step, *pari passu*, with all things else in the onward march? Enterprise and adventure are, as never before within our limits, upon the alert. The achievements of progress in every department of all that is to be admired, excellent and good, are rapidly coming up before our eyes, filling us with wonder and amazement that so long the city's undisturbed sleep has been, while all around and within her lay materials rich and rare, ready at the bidding to leap to their places, that monuments might be reared, not only to note the past, but to tell to coming times how noble the impulse for good, which in our day and generation, hath taken possession of the hearts of our people.

In every street, at every crossing, through all our broad avenues, along all our public reservations, the giant hand and arm and heart of improvement are with magic quickness doing their mighty works. And in the moral and religious world even more, in a single day, has been accomplished than in the past score of years.

Societies, large and firmly based, for the development of all that is good and noble in man, have been organized, and embrace within their rolls the names of our wealthiest, wisest, and best citizens.

Churches and congregations have well nigh doubled themselves in number, strength, and power. The whole atmosphere seems laden with the behests, as we breathe it, of a divine inspiration, which recalls the words of the commander of God's people of old, when emerging from Egypt's ignorance, superstition, darkness, and bondage—"Speak to the people that they go forward."

And as men, as Christians, as Masons, while all else is being marshalled and is moving, shall we alone be passive, sleep on, dream on; shall inertness, lethargy, aye, more and worse than the sluggard sloth, be the deformed, the debased idol of our eyes and hearts as we sit and gaze upon the countless processions as they pass with quick but solid step and nerved hearts for deeds of "noble daring?" No, let us move on—our ensign lift as high—our escutcheon be as blazing bright—our phalanx, as Masons, as well drilled and formed and solid as the eye may rest upon or the mind contemplate, for in God's good providence, in the order of the world's onward march for greatness, nobleness, and goodness, our position as Masons is, and should be, next to that which, without parallel, stands foremost—the church of our Lord. And were it given unto me to make the inscription upon all our banners, I would but write these few and simple words—

"Turpe est relinqui."

"'Tis base to be left behind."

In the discussion upon which we propose to enter, I preface by saying, in that which shall follow, reference must be made, many times, to the Gen'l G. C. of the U. S. Therefore, I take this early occasion to say, that as there is no disposition, so there shall be no word designedly uttered, the tendency of which shall be the impairment of the integrity, dignity, or acknowledged supremacy of that noble institution of Free Masons.

We shall at all times be prepared, as now we are to bow to its mandates of authority, whenever in this, as in all other regards, they shall come to us, with a willing submission.

And if we have seemed, in the premises of our movements, to withhold all appeal to the G. G. C., it was not that in any way or degree we sought avoidance of its authority, but because, simply and alone, we did not apprehend the issue demanded or required an appeal in the settlement or adjustment of the questions with which we were concerned.

We thought it better rather to be guided and governed by clear and well-defined principles and decisions, already established, than to create precedents by an appeal which, in the future, might have the proneness to engender doubts and produce confusion—more especially as the effort has been, as was known to every Mason in the jurisdiction, to force us before the G. G. C. for the purpose, seemingly at least, of producing delay, harassing, and chafing the friends of the movement of separation from the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

With regard to the jurisdiction, as an inherent power of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, already much that is problematical and perplexing exists, and so divergent are the formulæ by which, in various States, Chapter work is regulated, that one scarce knows when

and how an appeal should be made. The lament is, that there exists no well-defined and regulated system of jurisdiction on the part of the General Grand Chapter. In the case we have in hand, the semblance of a duty to appeal to the General Grand Chapter is urged by the "handful" of our companions against the conviction of more than 500 Royal Arch Masons among us, which conviction was and is that the question of separation from the grand Chapter of Maryland by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia belongs in nowise to the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

But, it may be asked, what necessity exists for a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia? and how shall Capitular Masonry be advantaged by the erection of a Grand Chapter? Why this inordinate desire for separation from Maryland? These and like questions have been asked again and again by those who have opposed separation, and the coming in of events, which to-night have been so auspiciously inaugurated. And, although time and again answers have been given, still they are asked, no matter how well, clear, and to the point the querist has received the response. Once again we will essay the answering of the questions propounded, and set forth the causes which have led to the separation.

First of all, it is hardly conceivable how it should have escaped the attention or observation of the most simple minded and least informed among us, that, while not in an independent condition, the Masonic work in any jurisdiction must be incomplete, if not positively imperfect. And this especially is the case where an alliance or conjunction is formed between two jurisdictions, in each of which grand lodges exist, but where irreconcilable discrepancies and differences also exist as to work in said grand lodges.

The District of Columbia is designated, definitely, by political and geographical boundary lines. Now, we hold the entire work of the "Ancient Craft," within the District, that it "may be designated in wisdom, established in strength, and perfected in beauty," should be wrought within the limits of the well-defined, political and geographical boundaries of the District of Columbia, and not commingled or mixed up with the workings of the "Craft" in Maryland.

In other words, that our grand Masonic Temple here in this District, having gained for itself a "good degree" in name and character, and hereafter and from henceforth to be known and acknowledged, as we humbly trust and hope, a grand centre of Masonic work and influence, should be supported and decorated by the Royal Arch of Capitular Masonry, erected, constituted, and ordained here in this city, the metropolis of the District, and not in Baltimore, a city of Maryland. It seems to us there would be as much display and no more of wisdom and propriety of having the Royal Temple in part *here*, its foundations and walls, and its *upper, loftier* work and finish in Baltimore, as, for the purpose of making the noble edifice complete in design and structure, *our Capitol*, the admiration of the world, should you remove its dome of vastness, grandeur, and sublimity, and set it down amid the streets and lanes of Baltimore, leaving for us here alone the foundation walls and columns of the mighty edifice. That the jurisdiction should be inde-

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pendent here in all matters belonging to the "craft" is asserted again, from the fact that here we have the "Grand Lodge" of the District of Columbia, in a degree elevated with "beauty," "strength," and "order," embracing over twenty-five hundred Free and Accepted Masons, with sixteen flourishing Lodges and three Chapters in full and working order, and two others already formed, since the announcement of the separation from Maryland. Why, in the name of the common sense of any man, I ask, should we be held in bondage, be *vassal* to Maryland? Why dishonor ourselves? Why disrobe ourselves of dignities, immunities, and privileges, the beauty and grandeur of the "craft" the world over, by submitting to an order of things which fastens upon us chains, instead of giving us the privilege to work as independent members of the craft—to win its rewards and wear its honors?

Again, look at the confusion which inevitably results from this unnatural alliance with Maryland. The Grand Lodge work, precedents, and principles which govern Capitular Masonry in Maryland are wholly unlike the Grand Lodge work, precedents, and principles, in many cases, of the District of Columbia, to which jurisdiction we belong, and to which, as District of Columbia Masons, we gladly submit.

On the part of the Masons of this jurisdiction there exists not only a positive distaste for, but a sincere disapproval of the work done in the jurisdiction of Maryland, in many of its features.

And yet, when we enter the Grand Chapter of Maryland, as Washington Masons, we are obliged to leave behind us all our tastes, feelings, and judgment. It mattered not what might be the cast or complexion of the questions or subjects introduced and discussed in the Grand Chapter of Maryland—if ever decisions had been made in Maryland, these were binding upon us—by the authority of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, no matter how widely differing from all precedents and decisions met with elsewhere—no matter how remote from all our notions and ideas of Masonic law and custom—no matter how unsanctioned by general usage—no matter how unsupported by universal custom—all, all, was unavailing that could be said or offered by way of modifying strange and unnatural precedents, and more strange and unlawful decisions.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland had uttered her "dictum," and that was deemed enough to satisfy the demands of all other jurisdictions.

A single instance will be sufficient for the present to shed light upon the way in which decisions are reached and promulgated as law in the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

At the last special convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, the question came up as to what vote was required to reinstate the Companions who stood suspended, the Grand Chapter having sustained the edict of suspension fulminated by the Grand High Priest. We were told the vote must be *unanimous*, and that the suspended Companions would have to be *balloted* for, and that a *single black ball* would be *final*.

In reply, it was argued that the Grand High Priest had been sustained in his edict of *suspension* by a *viva voce* vote, and by a *bare majority* at that, which alone gave force to his act, after the meeting of the Grand Chapter, he assuming the right and power only to suspend till the Grand

Chapter should convene. And that, after the Chapter should meet, a like vote could remove all disabilities resting upon *suspended* companions. This was denied.

Again, it was asked that some authority might be produced which should affirm that at least a two-thirds vote could not reinstate a suspended Companion. No such authority was forthcoming, save only this fact was stated, that at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of Maryland it was ordained and declared as law Masonic. We Masons of this jurisdiction had no say in the matter of this law which was enacted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, communicated to us by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, although we stood as suspended companions before the bar of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, awaiting the decision of a tribunal to which, by our union therewith, we owed subjection; but in the administration of the justice of which we never had say, and whose decision, under the enactment of a law so at variance with the dictates of the plainest usage, not to say more than this, might have consigned us to irreparable wrong and ruin.

We know that the law of Blue Masonry is the law of Capitular Masonry; and that all our ideas of what is right and proper and Masonic, it matters not whether pertaining to law or custom, are derived mainly from the working of the Grand Lodge of our own jurisdiction, in the District of Columbia. Was it unnatural, therefore, while under sentence of suspension, was it not but right and just, forming as we did a part of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, that we should have asked that we should have in any decision which might be rendered the advantage of the protection afforded by the laws and customs of our own jurisdiction, supported as they are by universal practice? especially since the affiliated R. A. Masons in the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia outnumbered the affiliated Masons of Maryland; and into the treasury of the Grand Chapter of Maryland we annually paid more money than they of Maryland. That we did earnestly desire the formation of a Grand Chapter here, within the limits of our own jurisdiction, we make no denial by way of evasion. That we meant to assume all the responsibilities of such a movement is alike confessed. That a meeting was called of the companions of the District jurisdiction is also freely and fully admitted; and that in the good Providence of God we have compassed our aim and end, the solemnities of this occasion equally attest.

Having so far adverted to the considerations which operated upon the minds of the companions of the District, and which led to the desire and purpose to erect a Grand Chapter here, I shall now refer to the obstacles and trials through which we were called to pass, ere the desire of our minds and hearts could be accomplished.

In the narration of the history of the movement of the separation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia from the Grand Chapter of Maryland, over much I would willingly draw the veil of oblivion, did I dare so to do, and bury away from human eyes the record of the inflictions with which we were visited by those whose good or bad fortune it was to be in authority in the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia. I am free to confess my tastes do not lead, have

never led me to admire or engage in conflicts, except at the bidding of the sternest necessity, where crimination and recrimination are measurably to be the weapons, and especially, when the fair field of Masonry is to be the scene of the battling, for it tells in language not to be misunderstood, that harmony, the pure spirit of which should ever preside over our deliberations has been dethroned to give place to some demon, the creation of our baser passions, and whose very presence should ever fill us with disgust and abhorrence.

But the issue has been driven upon us, and did we not meet it unflinchingly, and not sparingly, yielding to the dictates of a broad charity, false should I be to this movement; false to you, my companions; false to myself; false to the high and exalted position to which your kindnesses have called me, and last though not least to those cardinal principles of the order—truth and justice.

The late Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia has passed upon the "movement" and made up the record, which proclaims to the world that the edict of March 12 was conceived and sent forth rightfully and justly; that the Royal Arch Masons, members of Chapters Nos. 15, 16, and 20 were becomingly and legitimately deprived of all chapter rights and privileges; that the G. H. P. had transgressed not the limits of his duty in demanding the return of said Chapters' charters; that he possessed the power, and righteously exercised it while suspending fourteen of the fifteen elective offices, without charges or specifications, without trial, without a hearing, apart from all defence, without the asking of a question of said Chapters as to motives, principles, or purposes, governing them in their contemplated movement, and shutting them off from the liberty of appeal.

Would that we could pause here in the recital of the wrongs, as we deem them, perpetrated by the disregard of law, the abuse of authority, the crushing down of safeguards, the havoc of the protective rights and privileges of every, even the humblest, Mason in the land. But we cannot; we dare not; the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia have set, furthermore, sanction and seal to the edict of the G. H. P., in which we were publicly, through the city papers, denounced as "contumacious," possessed with the "spirit of rebellion;" our contemplated movement branded as an "act of insubordination," the result of the "destructive and disorganizing influences of a few," "our charters suspended," "elective offices suspended from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons," and that any "act of an assembly of Royal Arch Masons, members of said three chapters, or either of them, in their capacity as Royal Arch Masons, is, and will be illegal and clandestine." We have thus quoted the language of the edict of the G. H. P., least we may be chargeable with a wanton perversion of its style and import in our denunciations of it.

The G. H. P., in his missive to the Chapters and the public, speaks simply of "notices" having "been issued and circulated," which called out the grand embodiment of his supreme power and authority by way of edict. Why this general dealing with the subject? Why were not these "notices" specified? Why was the language of said "notices"

not given in his edict to the Chapters and the world? Did he design that the chapters, and especially Royal Arch Masons everywhere the world over, should be left to draw inferences of our wrong-doing and guilt, not from the "notices" themselves, which were carefully suppressed, but from the edict put forth by him? Had the "notices" been prefixed to the edict, we should have been more content.

Now, what was the grand offence perpetrated in those "notices" by the companions of the Chapters which were suspended by the edict of the G. H. P.? The notice here follows:

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1867.

COMPANION: You are hereby notified that a special convocation of Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 16, will be held on Saturday evening, March 16, at 7 o'clock, in convention with Nos. 15 and 20, at Central Masonic Hall, for the purpose of forming a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia. You are requested to be present.

By order of the M. E. H. P.

_____, Secretary.

What was there in this "notice" which became so alarming to the G. H. P. as to cause him to offer his protection "to all who respect the obligations they have assumed against the destructive and disorganizing influence of a few," for the time being—the total annihilation of the Chapters? Through what jaundiced media did he look that in a notice so plain and harmless he should discover evil genii of such vast and fiendish proportions as to require the extinguishment of the Chapters, least ruin and destruction to the craft be begotten. Perhaps, he may have been misled by the finding in said notice the word "formation." Forsooth, he may have fancied, that by the use of such word, at the contemplated meeting of the chapters called, it was the intension of somebody *at once to meet, form a grand chapter for the District of Columbia, elect and instal its officers*, and before the rising of a another sun to present it as a Grand Chapter complete in all its organization, and in antagonism to the G. C. of M. and D. of C., of which he happened to be G. H. P.

Now, had this all been done, there might have been some semblance or show of reason for such a stretch of power as we think was put forth.

Had the G. H. P. consulted the first lexicon he might lay his hand upon, and especially the "great unabridged," he would have discovered that the word formation, which we apprehend contained the "bug-bear" of his vision, means something else than *to begin, carry on, and perfect at a single meeting* the "formation" of anything about which it may be used. It comprehends the consideration of the *ways and means* and the materials and agencies out of which and by which the thing is to be formed.

The "notices" of which he speaks had reference to all of these materials and agencies. It was one of intended fraternal character for the free and full intercourse of companions, and the free and full interchange of opinions and feelings for the purpose of the forming of a G. C. of the D. of C. Had no interruptions been met with the whole matter of our connection with the Maryland G. C. would have been peaceably and amicably discussed, our duties and obligations resulting therefrom, the

strength and hope of the companions desiring release from Maryland, together with the various matter incident to the contemplated change.

Will it be said by any rational man that such a gathering is "contumacious," actuated by "a spirit of rebellion," "illegal" and "clandestine," and that the punishment for which shall be deprivation of "charters," the suspension of "elected" officers from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, and all this, as I have said, without preliminary investigation, without charges and specifications, without the right of defence or explanation, and the crowning act of all, the denial of even the right of appeal, and all this by the dictum of *one man* against the judgment of five hundred Royal Arch Masons?

We venture to affirm, in the appeal which may be made to the Sisterhood of G. C. throughout the nation, we shall have sympathies and judgments in our behoof which shall more than compensate us for the injuries and defamations and trials we have borne. But the catalogue of all the mischiefs intended us has not yet been completed.

During the past ten years at all times a large majority of the Companions of this District have been earnest and sincere in their desires for the establishment of a Grand Chapter in this jurisdiction; and, strange as it may appear, those who, years ago, when we were comparatively without strength, urged the propriety of the movement, now, when we are strong, bitterly oppose the measure and denounce its friends in no measured terms.

Why this strange and singular inconsistency? This question I flatter myself I could readily answer, but I will not, preferring to leave it with each companion to answer for himself, feeling confident that all honest minds must inevitably reach the conclusion at which I have arrived in the premises. At the annual convocation of the G. C. of M. and D. of C., 1865, a resolution was passed compelling us to confer the degrees in a manner different from that which had ever heretofore been the practice, either in the District or in Maryland. The representatives from our chapters opposed earnestly the proposed change, but their antagonism availed nothing. Why? Simply because the Grand Lodge of Maryland had declared that their rule and order should be adopted in regard to Blue Masonry, and the companions from Maryland believing the same to be right, compelled the G. C. to adopt a similar rule, and this in the teeth of the uniform practice of nearly three-quarters of a century, another illustration of the fact that we, of the District, as Capitular Masons, were governed entirely by laws emanating from the G. L. of Maryland.

Of course we yielded submission and obeyed, as was our duty, the "edict" of the G. C., and thus nightly, as Masons, were put in the ridiculous position of witnessing, in the constituent lodges working under our G. L., practices which were declared in our own chapters working under Maryland unmasonic, our lodges deriving their rule from our own G. L., our chapters from the G. L. of Maryland, through the ever-willing medium of the G. C. of Maryland and District of Columbia. Is it strange we desired a separation? At the last convocation of the G. C., an effort was made to repeal the resolution above referred to,

which was to us so obnoxious, but the effort signally failed—of course it failed; the G. L. of Maryland had not changed its position, and why should the Grand Chapter change; nor do I for a moment blame the Maryland companions for the tenacity with which they adhere to the impressions derived from their own Grand Lodge.

It is precisely what we of this District seek to be able to do, *i. e.*, if as Capitular Masons we are to be governed by law emanating from a Grand Lodge, let it be our own Grand Lodge. Is this an unnatural request? Certainly it cannot be so charged.

But it was denied that the Washington representatives properly represented the sentiment of Capitular Masonry in this District in asking a separation, and so their request was postponed, and a resolution was adopted asking that the chapters in the District inform the Grand Chapter whether or not they really favored a separation. Their answer was of course in the affirmative, and nearly unanimous. Thus our representatives were triumphantly sustained in the course adopted by them, and that, too, in the face of a bitter opposition, led by the M. E. Grand High Priest, he, in a Chapter of which he was not a member, using his entire influence, as well as the influence of his position, in urging the companions to refrain from expressing any opinion, although the Grand Chapter itself had sought the information.

But believing we were right, we acted accordingly. After the question had once been publicly discussed, the feeling become so strong and intense, the High Priests of our three Chapters issued notices similar to the one quoted.

Thence began the persecution; and we find that, notwithstanding the memorable "edict" of March 12, the "clandestine" meeting, as it was stigmatized, was held agreeably to the "notices," and was by far the largest congregation of Royal Arch Masons ever assembled in the jurisdiction. Did the Grand High Priest consider it "clandestine," as he had denounced it three days before? Let his own acts answer. He sought a companion who, for ability and influence, stood peerless in this jurisdiction, and requested him to attend this "clandestine" meeting, promising, if a resolution was passed asking him to convene the Grand Chapter, that he would do so, and that, too, within ten days, to consider the subject of separation. It may be asked, did the Grand High Priest really urge a companion to be present at and endeavor to control the proceedings of his declared "clandestine meeting?" Even so.

But more than this, he promptly redeemed his promise, and in obedience to the bidding of our "clandestine meeting" convened the Grand Chapter, and did what? why declared himself the friend of separation! A word in reference to the meeting. Not a single companion present was so foolishly ignorant as to believe, that a *mass meeting* could legally and constitutionally form a grand body of either Symbolic or Capitular Masonry; we all were too familiar with the history of the abortive attempt to form the first Grand Lodge of Michigan to so absurdly blunder.

Our primary object in calling this convention was to obtain a full and free expression of opinion, as I have stated. I am free to admit that

our ulterior object was the formation of a Grand Chapter, with or without the consent of Maryland. We did not then, I do not now believe, by any law, (save and except the law of courtesy, obedience to which is always pleasant,) of the Gen'l Grand Chapter, or any other Grand Chapter, that Maryland had anything to do with the question.

It is preposterous to suppose, that the action of the Gen'l Grand Chapter, in placing the District Chapters under the control so the Grand Chapter of Maryland was to continue for all time, and that unless Maryland saw fit to relinquish her jurisdiction we were to be forever debarred the privilege of having a Grand Chapter of our own in this District, free from foreign influences

Does any one pretend that the Gen'l Grand Chapter has the power to link together two distinct and independent jurisdictions, as are Maryland and the District of Columbia, in such a manner that neither can withdraw without the consent of the other. No such law can be found in its constitution; no such precedent exists in its history. And, it distinctly asserts, that it exercises no "doubtful powers;" therefore, I assert, that no action of the Gen'l Grand Chapter did or could deny not only the constitutional but the inherent right which is vested in three Chapters in any jurisdiction unoccupied by a Grand Chapter to form one therein. Any assumption to the contrary is in direct violation of the law, and does gross violence to the spirit of Masonry in this country at least. As an *act of courtesy*, therefore, we asked the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, that Grand Body being convened in special convocation for that purpose, notwithstanding the Grand High Priest had informed the High Priest of one of our Chapters, as well as other companions, that the subject of a separation should not be considered even at the annual meeting in November next.

Why? Because he said it would be discourteous for the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia to act in the premises until the General Grand Chapter had granted its permission and expressed its approval. How can the Grand High Priest reconcile and justify, with his ideas of propriety, the recent act of discourtesy to the General Grand Chapter, as embodied in the resolution, which passed, almost unanimously, in favor of separation by the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, of which he was Grand High Priest; and all, too, at the bidding of a "contumacious" and "rebellious" set, acting through the agency of a "clandestine meeting;" nor was this, the seeking permission of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, the only act of courtesy the friends of this movement have exhibited, and that, too, in the face of an opposition unprecedented in the annals of Masonry. Without any offence committed, the Grand High Priest demands the return of three charters; and they are immediately returned. From whence comes his power to withdraw charters? I admit he may suspend, for cause, the functions of a chapter. I deny the power is his to withdraw a charter.

When remonstrated kindly with, and told that he was clothed with no such power, and that its exercise was a usurpation, he asserted that the power was his, stating that in the interim between the meetings of the

Grand Chapter, all the vast and supreme authority of that Grand Body was vested in him. This assumption is too violent to combat with argument, or even to receive serious consideration; but, for the sake of argument, let us for a moment admit its truth, and still his position is no more tenable than before. Why? Simply because no masonic body, I care not if it be grand or constituent, has the right to suspend me or any other Mason without charges, trial, and hearing. It may, perhaps, be different in Maryland; and without really knowing, I imagine it must be so, as the Maryland companions sustained the Grand High Priest in his course, and their opinions are all derived from their own Grand Lodge.

But to return to our "clandestine meeting." After the resolution was passed asking the G. H. P. to convene the G. C., we suddenly find this officer powerless, for he declared he would willingly revoke his edict, return the charters, and restore the companions had he the power; but believing he had not, *and as he could not exercise "doubtful powers,"* he could not so act. He could withdraw charters and suspend companions because he imagined an offence was about to be committed, but when he made the discovery that no offence existed he had not the power to return the charters and reinstate the companions. Thus we see a chief officer, who has exercised powers unheard of, hesitating, and denying even his ability simply to undo his own unconstitutional act.

Article one, section two, of the constitution of the G. C. of Md. and D. C. declares: "No companion can be an officer or member of the G. C. unless he be at the same time a member of some subordinate Chapter." Under this article he declared that a P. H. P. of Columbia Chapter, No. 15, had not the right to vote, that chapter having no charter, (the same having been returned in obedience to his edict,) and therefore not entitled to representation, but still, although he belonged to the same defunct Chapter, he had a perfect right to preside over and control the action of the G. C. How he reconciled his rulling with his action I will leave it for others to decide; I confess my entire inability, remarking simply how true is the trite old saying, "Oh, consistency, thou art indeed a jewel!"

Now, what are the powers of a Grand High Priest? I can answer this question best by quoting the resolution reported by the committee of the G. G. C. of the U. S., and adopted in 1853. The original was offered by the present truly eminent G. G. H. P.:

Resolved, That the officers of State Grand Chapters possess no power, incidental or otherwise, except such as are expressly conferred by the constitutions of State Grand Chapters or of the G. G. C., or by their express authority otherwise given.

This chart is full, clear, and explicit.

I have profound respect for law, and am truly loyal to the G. G. C., and whenever it speaks in clear and unmistakable tones, as in the above resolution, it is my duty, as it will ever be my pleasure, cheerfully to obey; but I don't see in this recital of the duties of G. H. P. any authority, certainly without an offence committed, to demand the return of a charter or to suspend an individual companion without a hearing by the G. H. P.

After the special convocation of the 26th and 27th of March, at which by a unanimous vote the charters were returned, and the "suspended" officers reinstated, and the resolution having passed with such singular unanimity in favor of separation, we had hoped that the Chapters of the District would be permitted peaceably to perfect their work and organize a Grand Chapter without further molestation. But in this we were deceived. The delegates of the several chapters met in convention April 11 and formed a constitution, elected the officers, and did all that was necessary to the proper formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia. The convention, after a full and frank expression of opinion, and a free interchange of views, decided, with scarcely a dissenting vote, that the consent of one of the first four officers was not necessary.

Our opponents, with alertness, seized upon this pretext to renew their opposition. We were threatened with the withdrawal of the consent already given by the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia. We were told that we would not be recognized by the General Grand Chapter or any other Grand Chapter, and to such an extent did they proceed in their efforts to intimidate, that we were told unless we hearkened to them that *our charters would again be withdrawn*. All this passed unheeded by us, well knowing, as we did, that the wish was simply father to the thought.

We knew we were honest and conscientious, and flattered ourselves that we had sufficient intelligence to understand the plain and clear provision of the General Grand Chapter constitution bearing on the subject. And having not rashly, but after mature deliberation and reflection, assumed the position, that consent of one of the first officers was unnecessary, we determined unflinchingly to maintain our stand, be the consequences what they might. In order clearly to state the reasons which governed us in declining to ask the consent alluded to, a slight digression is necessary.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia was formed about 1814, and was acknowledged by the General Grand Chapter in 1816. These dates are important, from this fact, that they show that until 1816 the General Grand Chapter exercised no control whatever as a Grand Body over either the territory of Maryland or the District of Columbia, and then only such control as is exercised over States and Territories occupied by State Grand Chapters. It is a great pity for Royal Arch Masonry that it ever recognized a Grand Chapter claiming jurisdiction over two independent jurisdictions. It never could have been considered a natural union, or why did they insert in the original constitution of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia a clause that a Grand Chapter should not be formed in either jurisdiction without the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

How absurd it would be for the Grand Chapter of New York, for instance, to insert a clause in its constitution, that no Grand Chapter should be formed in its jurisdiction without its permission. But this was deemed necessary in the formation of the first Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

But this was not even considered sufficient to cement together this unnatural union. A compact was formed between the representatives from Maryland and those of the District, that for twenty years no separation should take place. Do the annals of Masonry furnish a parallel instance, *i. e.*, in which a grand body shall not be established in its jurisdiction without its permission, and then have resort to a civil compact to bind its constituents together? Therefore, was I not justified in saying that it was a misfortune that the General Grand Chapter ever gave its recognition to a jurisdiction bound together by ties so entirely before unheard of, and equally unmasonic.

No matter whether properly or improperly formed, this Grand Chapter held supreme and undisputed control over Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia until the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was formed in 1824. In 1822 the delegates of the four Chapters then in the District of Columbia—two of said Chapters being in this city, one in Georgetown, and one in Alexandria—(the latter city then being a portion of the District,) met in convention and took the preliminary steps to the formation of a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia.

They asked, and under date of August 30, 1822, obtained the assent of the General Grand High Priest to this formation. This consent we hold was entirely unnecessary, simply because the four Chapters in this jurisdiction were not working by virtue of authority derived from the constitution of the General Grand Chapter. Brook Chapter, Alexandria, having derived its charter originally from the Grand Chapter of Virginia; Potomac of Georgetown, and Union and Federal of this city, from the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

But, our forefathers did not consider the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia necessary as a preliminary step to the formation of their Grand Chapter, and, accordingly, did not seek the same. And from the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia of 1824, we learn that this Grand Body complained of the course of the District Chapters simply because these failed to recognize the binding force of the "constitutional provision," as well as the "compact" under the terms by which the jurisdictions were intended to be bound together till 1834. But, nevertheless, the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia gave its consent, and in 1824 the first Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was formed, and received into communion with the General Grand Chapter in 1826; and the General Grand Chapter declared that the "authority of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia over said District shall, from and after the date hereof, cease and determine, except so far as relates to Potomac Chapter."

This exception of Potomac Chapter, with great respect for the General Grand Chapter, we hold was not only irregular, but positively illegal, recognizing as it did a jurisdiction, and then authorizing the oldest Chapter therein to retain its allegiance to a foreign jurisdiction. This was a gross and palpable violation of that great cardinal principle of the

entirety of jurisdictions, which underlies the whole theory of American Masonry, and without which the integrity of no jurisdiction can be preserved, and the harmony of the whole utterly impossible. The Grand Chapter thus formed had but a brief existence. At the very threshold of its career it tamely surrendered the jurisdiction over its oldest and strongest constituent—Potomac Chapter—instead of heroically claiming and exercising its legitimate functions over its entire territory, thus illustrating that in Masonry, as in the every day walks of life, disaster will inevitably, as it should, follow a surrender of principle.

The first Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, for want of sufficient constituents, became effete and dormant in 1833.

The retrocession of Alexandria to Virginia carried Brook Chapter to that jurisdiction. Union and Federal and Temple Chapter, which had been chartered by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia—the latter being the only Chapter constituted under its *regime*—soon followed their parent and became extinct, and from 1834 or '35 to 1838 we have reason to believe no Chapter existed in this District, save and except Potomac.

In the latter year, 1838, certain companions of the District petitioned the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and improperly obtained from that body the charter of our present flourishing Columbia Chapter.

We say the Grand Chapter of Maryland improperly granted this charter; for after our own Grand Chapter entered upon its long sleep, from which, thanks to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, it has now been so thoroughly aroused, this District was, properly speaking, unoccupied territory, and continued thus until 1841, and being unoccupied it was therefore open to any State Grand Chapter which did not recognize the General Grand Chapter to charter Chapters therein, but not to Maryland, which did recognize the General Grand Chapter, in view of the fact that the latter Grand Body claims jurisdiction over all territory not occupied by a legal Grand Chapter throughout this entire country. Therefore, I hold that Maryland in chartering Columbia Chapter, in 1838, in an illegal manner, invaded the rights of the General Grand Chapter, and in this view, I am fully sustained by the action of the General Grand Chapter itself, for in 1841, when it authorized the D. Grand High Priest "to take the necessary steps to place all Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in that part of the District of Columbia which formerly belonged to the State of Maryland, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland," it also "authorized him to heal and legalize any irregularity in the issuing of any charter held by said Chapters." Reference here must necessarily have been to Columbia Chapter, and the issuing of its charter by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, as at the period alluded to there existed but two Chapters in this District—Potomac, which had its original charter of 1818, and Columbia, chartered as stated. It will be observed that in the transfer of this District to the jurisdiction of Maryland, no allusion is made or contemplated by the General Grand Chapter of reviving the old Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, which ceased to exist in 1824.

The language of the resolution is clear and explicit. It does not say that the unnatural alliance, which existed from 1814 to 1824, shall be reformed, but simply that the D. General Grand High Priest shall place the Chapters in this District under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Md. From this action, I think, the following facts are deducible:

First, That Maryland, since 1824, has never even had the semblance of right to claim the District of Columbia as a portion of her jurisdiction. Under the direction of the General Grand Chapter, she had the right to control Chapters chartered by her, and a general supervision of the territory. All beyond this was a usurpation. Its entire right to any jurisdiction was derived from the General Grand Chapter, for its action, prior to the authority granted in 1841, was deemed so illegal by the General Grand Chapter that its acts in this District had to be healed by the D. Grand High Priest, under the authority of the General Grand Chapter. The General Grand Chapter transferred to the Grand Chapter of Maryland, during the period our own Grand Chapter remained dormant, the right which the General Grand Chapter claims over unoccupied territory, such as the issuing of charters, demanding certain fees therefor, and also fees for the exaltation of companions in Chapters which are working "by virtue of its authority." These and kindred powers were granted to Maryland, and the control of them has been permitted her uninterruptedly for twenty-six years, and under them Maryland has chartered Washington and Mount Vernon Chapters of this city, which, with Potomac and Columbia Chapters, constitute the four Chapters which have formed our present Grand Chapter. Another fact I desire to note is this, that the only right Maryland can claim over this District is derived from the General Grand Chapter's resolution of 1841. Powers and privileges not specifically given therein, or fairly deducible therefrom, she never had the right to exercise, and their enforcement, therefore, was a clear usurpation.

I hold, then, that the action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, in changing its title in 1854 to that of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and thus resuming its old pretended claim to supreme jurisdiction over this District, was an illegal act, and unwarranted by any general law or special enactment. In this brief and fragmentary outline which I have given of the history of Capitular Masonry, in this jurisdiction, I have had these objects in view: First, to show that we were not only an independent jurisdiction, but as such had been recognized by the General Grand Chapter. Secondly, that after our Grand Chapter had ceased actively to exercise its functions, the General Grand Chapter, our natural guardian, not parent, transferred whatever right it had to jurisdiction to Maryland; and lastly, that at no period of the history of Capitular Masonry in this District did there ever exist a Chapter working by virtue of the authority of the General Grand Chapter's constitution.

This statement, just given, also enables me to answer the question—why the convention failed to ask the permission of one of the first four Grand Officers of the General Grand Chapter, previously to proceeding with the formation of our Grand Chapter.

The article of the General Grand Chapter's constitution, bearing on this subject, is article 2, section 9, and is in these words: "Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, by virtue of authority derived from this constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established, so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate, provided, that the approval of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter be previously obtained." Now, our answer to this is that we are not working in this jurisdiction under or by virtue of authority of the General Grand Chapter.

Our charters have all emanated from Maryland, and with the sanction of the General Grand Chapter, given in general terms in the resolution of 1841, and that, since that formal transfer, the General Grand Chapter has never pretended to exercise jurisdiction or supervision over any Chapter in this District, which it certainly must and should have done had it been considered that we were working under or by virtue of its authority. The General Grand Chapter claims and maintains jurisdiction over all Chapters established by itself, as will be seen by article 1, section 2, of its constitution, and by reference to section 7 of same article, it clearly states what fee shall be paid for a charter, and demands a fee for each companion exalted in any Chapter working under its jurisdiction. Now, all such power as we have said the General Grand Chapter transferred to Maryland, in 1841, and that Grand Chapter has uninterruptedly exercised them, without the slightest whisper even in the General Grand Chapter, or of any of its officers, that Maryland, in these regards, had in any degree transcended her legitimately conferred powers.

But again, there is not a power vested in a Grand Chapter of supreme authority which the Grand Chapter of Maryland has not claimed and freely put into action, and this, too, with the sanction of the General Grand Chapter. Since 1841 the Grand Chapter of Maryland has chartered the only two Chapters which have been brought into existence.

She has demanded annual returns from us, holding us as her constituents. She has claimed from us and received the fees for exaltation, and also the per capita tax, for all the members on our "rostra," as from the Chapters in Baltimore. She established a form of work and compelled our submission, although at variance with the work known to our own jurisdiction, and directly in contravention of the work authorized by the General Grand Chapter. She demands still, that the "Select" and "Royal Masters" degree shall be given before the "Royal Arch" degree, notwithstanding the General Grand Chapter has, time and again, declared the same out of order, and although through her delegates in 1853, she pledged herself that the degrees should be given as required by the General Grand Chapter.

But this pledge has been unredeemed, and we, in the District of Columbia, have been compelled, in our Chapters, to confer the degrees in accordance with the Maryland plan, and directly in opposition to the General Grand Chapter and our own sense of masonic law and custom. Of all this the General Grand Chapter has knowledge, and so far as we know

has never complained. And why not? Simply because since 1841 Maryland has had supreme authority over the Chapters in this District, the General Grand Chapter so interpreting the resolution of 1841 as giving to Maryland the exclusive jurisdiction over the Chapters.

How more than idle, then, to claim, on the part of any one, that the Chapters here are working under or by virtue of the authority of the General Grand Chapter. Nor will it do to say that the practice of Maryland in the above regards has simply been permitted by the General Grand Chapter, and that Maryland has been suffered in some way to act as an agent of the General Grand Chapter. Agencies and attorneyships are unknown in masonry. The grand body cannot, at this day, and in this country, delegate to subordinate bodies rights and powers invested in it alone, as, for instance, the ability to issue charters and do acts of like importance.

This is made clear in the case of Columbia Chapter. The work done in that Chapter prior to 1841 was, by order of the General Grand Chapter, required to be "healed" before it could be legal or the Chapter admitted to fellowship with the Chapters in association with the General Grand Chapter. Why have not Washington and Mount Vernon Chapters been held by the General Grand Chapter to a just accountability, and the work done by them to be "healed?" For the plain reason that the General Grand Chapter holds its resolution of 1841 in good faith, and pretends not to exercise jurisdiction over the District of Columbia.

If we have been working "by virtue of authority derived from the General Grand Chapter's constitution," why has not the General Grand Chapter compelled our chapter to discontinue, in obedience to its edict, the conferring of the Council, as degrees of the Chapter? We all know how improper the General Grand Chapter considers the practice, and how earnestly it desires uniformity in this regard. If we are under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter no explanation can be offered in extenuation of its conduct as evinced by its silence; but, not working by virtue of its authority, the answer is plain—we have been compelled to obey the practice in Maryland, under which authority we are. The General Grand Chapter does not require the consent of one of its first four officers as necessary to the legal formation of a Grand Chapter when the three chapters which propose to form the same are working under State authority.

Take the case of the Grand Chapter of Florida, for instance. The three chapters were chartered by the Grand Chapter of South Carolina. These chapters met in convention and formed a Grand Chapter without obtaining the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter; and when the Grand Chapter of Florida asked to be recognized by the General Grand Chapter, certain fees were claimed as due by one of the Chapters, the Chapter of St. Augustine, I think.

Those fees were not paid, and the Grand Chapter of Florida was not recognized by the General Grand Chapter. But still, all State Grand Chapters which are loyal to the General Grand Chapter hold intercourse with the Grand Chapter of Florida, the General Grand Chapter never having questioned the legality of its formation in consequence of the

"consent of one of the four officers" never having been obtained. Why? Because the Chapters in Florida were chartered by South Carolina, and not by the General Grand Chapter. Again, take the case of North Carolina. Many years ago there was a Grand Chapter there, which died out. After quite a period, it was found that there existed, scattered over the State in different sections, four Chapters. These Chapters met, formed a Grand Chapter, presented themselves to and were instantly recognized by the General Grand Chapter, although the consent of one of the first four officers was not previously obtained.

The outline of the case of N. C. is analogous to ours. But on the important point of the right to form a Grand Chapter *without* the consent of one of the "first four officers" our case is stronger than theirs. The General Grand Chapter was the natural protector of the N. C. Chapters after their Grand Chapter ceased to exist, as it was of our Chapters between 1833 and 1841. But it never transferred to another its jurisdiction over N. C. while the Grand Chapter was dormant. But it did make the transfer in our case to Maryland, and has permitted Maryland to act as our supreme head, which it could not have properly done had it considered for one moment that our Chapters were "working by virtue of authority derived from its constitution."

My companions, we were an independent jurisdiction with four Chapters working under "State authority," and we had full power to meet at any time and form a Grand Chapter without asking the permission of any one, and our Grand Chapter would have been recognized. No Royal Arch Masons in this country are more loyal to the General Grand Chapter, or have a higher respect for that body than the very companions who composed the convention which formed our Grand Chapter. And had the consent been deemed necessary most cheerfully would we have asked the same of the General Grand High Priest. But we knew "it would be a work of supererogation, and that he was too orthodox to admire such works."

I hope and believe the first official act of our Grand Chapter will be the banishment of the Council Degrees, thus showing our respect for the edicts of the General Grand Chapter.

Thus have we been compelled to traverse the footsteps of those who have gone before us in their assailing of the Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia and warfare against what we deem to be the quiet, order, peace, and dignity of the "Craft" in their disregard of rights and privileges, precedents, customs, and law. Less than the effort we have made to put ourselves and this Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia where we should be, right and fair and honorable before the Chapters and Lodges of the country, could not have been done.

In the doing of all this we utterly disclaim all personal bad feeling or ill will, either towards the Grand Chapter of Maryland or the Grand High Priest, whose acts we have passed in review. Let no man say we sought this issue, as we mean no man shall say, when forced upon us, we did not meet it fairly and fearlessly.

“In peace, there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humanity,
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
* * * * *

Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood.”

From one source, at least, we have drawn solace, amid the disquietudes which have pressed us while penning the foregoing address. The sanction of one of the four grand officers has been brought us—the Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, whose name, ability, experience, and wisdom we honor and venerate, in all matters pertaining to the “ancient craft.” And if what I have said may not satisfy all doubts and scruples, we think, at least, presumption and rashness will not be so unblushing as to offer antagonism to a decision which emanates from the highest authority known among Free Masons in the United States.

I congratulate you, my companions, upon the realization of our fond hopes, in connection with the establishment of the Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia. The goal we have reached. The rewards are before us. Through all the rough and rugged way we've travelled, in the attainment of the great object of our hearts' desire, we have been sustained by the conviction of conscience and of judgment, *that the right was with us.*

And, although at times unforeseen, and seemingly unconquerable, difficulties met us in the way, and from sources whence we had the right to look for other better things, neither you or I have faltered. From first to last, but one single thought possessed us—how most, how best, we could advance the interests of the “Ancient Craft.” To this our hearts were wedded, and to this alone.

And now, for the future, as in the past, so in all time to come, let us, with united hands and hearts, betake us to the work of building up, establishing, and decorating the noble and majestic “Temple,” wherein are enshrined those matchless mysteries, which tell, in all their teachings, of Truth, of Charity, of Brotherly Love, by all the devotion of body and soul, unremittingly and most sincerely.

For myself, I know not what to say, without the expression of emotion, deep and fervid, for the dignity to which you have advanced me, and the honors with which you have crowned me. But ye are my witnesses, I craved not these at your hands. While places of distinction and power are not to be overlooked, or slightly passed by, while ornaments of gems and jewels are attractive and winning, mine I humbly conceive was a nobler ambition. Content should I have been, in some more undistinguishable sphere, to have labored with you, and toiled with you, in “Chapter work.” In my time, I have not been without the adornments of high and jewelled honors from the “Craft;” but far above and beyond these I value the conviction of my own judgment and heart, that I have been, and am a *working Mason*, with the love of the Craft in my heart, while its honors I hold in my hand.

But you have advanced me—and as I solemnly protest, without effort or agency of mine—to this high position. The duties of this place are abundant and most responsible. I almost shrink from the contempla-

tion of them, and only am willing now to assume them, believing as I do that I shall at your hands receive all the aids which your confidence, wisdom, and experience can furnish—at all times, in all emergencies.

The scales of justice I shall hope ever to hold steadily balanced in the administration of the obligations and duties of the “High Priesthood,” and, never forgetting that

“Justice should have
No kindred, friends, nor foes, nor hate, nor love ;
As free from passion as the God above.”

I shall betake me to the work.

I know not how to express all I feel for the confidence with which you have laden me. I can only ask from Him, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, that experience, ability, and wisdom may be given me ; that I may so live and labor in the Craft as that when I shall lay aside the insignia of this high office, it may be said of me by you, my companions : he has worked well, stood by the “Craft,” and “kept the faith,” and peace be with him, and his !

Upon the conclusion of the address the other Grand Officers were duly installed, and the meeting adjourned. The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia then repaired to its hall and opened in ample form, when, on motion, it was unanimously ordered, that the inaugural address of the Grand High Priest be approved, and the Grand Secretary be directed to have one thousand copies of the same printed, and transmit one copy to each Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary in America.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND CHAPTER OF MARYLAND AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

This Grand Chapter at its Annual Convocation, November, 1868, ordered the following extracts to be printed in advance of the regular publication of its Proceedings for the information of its sister State Grand Chapters:

ADDRESS OF GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

The subject of the so-called Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, was also brought to the consideration of the General Grand Chapter, not by any direct application on the part of your representatives, but by the address of the General Grand High Priest, in which it is stated that he had issued an edict pronouncing the Grand Chapter of the District to be irregular, and to which he received a counter edict in reply from the newly installed Grand High Priest, defiant in spirit and discourteous in terms, yet notwithstanding this, and as we thought in a spirit of wonderful kindness and with unsurpassed magnanimity, he declared his readiness not only to overlook but forget the past (the discourtesies of course included,) and moreover, remarked that authentic information had reached him that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia had resolved to place itself under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, and be represented in the present convention, and if this were so, he cordially recommended the admission of its representatives. In the true spirit of charity, he did not intimate that he would require of them any expressions of repentance for the past, or promises of amendment in the future. The matter was referred to a special committee of five members, who (as we were informed) having made a full, fair and thorough investigation, agreed upon a unanimous report, denouncing the so-called Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, as illegal and clandestine, possessing no valid existence, which report was to have been presented immediately on the meeting of the General

Grand Chapter ordered for the following morning ; but the opening of that meeting having been delayed for a considerable time from causes to us unknown, two of the committee were for some reasons induced to withdraw their names from the report agreed upon, and prepare another which was presented as the report of the minority. It recommended the following resolutions, viz :

"*1st Resolved*, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, is hereby recognized as a regular Grand Chapter, and its officers entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter." Now, we would respectfully ask for information, wherefore the necessity of such a resolution as this, when the officers above referred to had possession of these seats, as we understood, during the whole session of the convention.

"*2d Resolved*, That Potomac Chapter within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, not having united in the formation of said Grand Chapter, is now under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, but without territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the capitular degrees." Now remark : The constitution of the General Grand Chapter declares that it shall have jurisdiction over Chapters established by itself and over those in States, Territories, &c., where no Grand Chapter exists, and yet Potomac Chapter over which it now assumes jurisdiction, was not established by it, and is located in a territory in which the first resolution expressly declares there is a regular Grand Chapter in existence.

"*3d Resolved*, That all acts of censure, suspension or expulsion growing out of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia be declared null and void, and companions of the District of Columbia, who may have affiliated with the Potomac Chapter, be and are hereby declared to be in good and regular standing as members of such Chapter." May we inquire, wherefore the necessity of such a resolution? Were not the acts of suspension and expulsion all issued by this same Grand Chapter of the District, whilst under censure and condemnation of the General Grand High Priest? Were not all these acts illegal and inoperative? Then, wherefore this declaration by the General Grand Chapter? May we not exclaim in view of these absurd resolutions, "Oh! consistency thou art a jewel." In the report of the minority, we believe our own Grand Chapter, (that of Maryland and District of Columbia) did not receive a passing notice, even so much as an "honorable mention." We were also informed and as we suppose and believe to have been on reliable authority, that the principal argument favoring the recognition of the District Grand Chapter was predicated upon the record, that the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia had adopted a resolution giving its assent to a division of its jurisdiction, and authorizing the formation of another Grand Chapter within the District of Columbia ; but if the friends of the District Grand Chapter who used this argument in favor of its recognition, had taken the necessary time for proper inquiry and investigation, and obtained intelligent information in regard to this legislation, they would have found that the resolution of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, giving

assent to the formation of a Grand Chapter within the District of Columbia, expressly required that it should be formed "legally," and that the present existing Grand Chapter of the District was thus formed, not even the sympathy of the General Grand High Priest would allow him to assert. Not only so, but this assent was forced through at a special meeting of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia and in direct violation of an article in this constitution, which declares that no alteration, amendment or addition shall be made to it, except proposed at a stated meeting and laid over until the next; besides this, the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia was established and formed some years since by order of the General Grand Chapter, and so continued under the same organization in harmony and peace with nothing to disturb its unity, until the hydra-headed monster of division was introduced, and it is considered at least doubtful, whether it could legally entertain a proposition to divide itself even at a *stated* meeting without some previous legislation on the part of its creator—the General Grand Chapter. But without argument on this point, we will say that the question had been confided to a committee of inquiry at the annual meeting of 1866, which committee had not yet reported when the motion to divide was proposed, and the hot and eager haste with which it was hurried through the Grand Chapter, if not *illegal*, manifested at least a want of common courtesy and respect. The minority report was adopted, and as we have already stated that this knowledge was derived for the most part by information, it may be not amiss to state that we were not present in convention during the discussion and adoption of the report, for soon after its introduction, it was moved and seconded in form, that the representatives from the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia be admitted into the convention, and as understood, with full privileges of membership. To this we objected, as we regarded them as clandestine Masons (the edict of the General Grand High Priest not having been then removed,) but our objection was overruled, and the motion carried; whereupon we at once withdrew from the hall, not feeling at liberty to hold *Masonic* intercourse with those whom we regarded as clandestine. An argument was attempted by some companions who should have known better (perhaps did) that it was unfair and unjust to debar these representatives from the privileges of defence and justification, whilst those who had the misfortune to differ with them in *Masonic* opinion, were allowed full liberty of speech. As an *abstract* opinion, this may be true, but in *Masonry* it becomes a fallacy; for when was it, may we ask, that a suspended or expelled Mason was permitted to appear before his Lodge or Chapter to plead in his own behalf, after the rendition of a verdict of guilty, or in case of appeal could he be allowed to appear "*in propria personae*" to argue his case? Does not all *Masonic* law and usage require, that whilst a case of trial is pending, the defence, if made at all, should be made through the committee of investigation, or if, in the case of appeal, can it be argued otherwise than by proxy? Why then such ardent anxiety to admit these *particular* representa-

tives? Was it feared that none others could do them justice? Was it not rather that a determination had been formed to admit them? And admitted they were as we thought without proper consideration, and for this unmasonic act, (as we regarded it) we declined further attendance upon the convention. On the part of some companions, members of the convention, strict justice requires of us to say, that they maintained the paradoxical opinion of a Chapter being clandestine, whilst its members could be regular and in good standing. Such a thing is absurd and irrational in its attempted realization. How can we conceive of a body impure and corrupt with all its members or constituent parts sound and healthy? We think such a state cannot exist and in relation to it; there would be no impropriety in saying with Hudibras:

“He must have optics sharp, I ween,
To see what is not to be seen.”

As one of your representatives to the General Grand Chapter, we hold ourselves responsible to you and you alone for all our acts, including our withdrawal from the meetings of that body, and sincerely hope that they meet your approbation, but as we believed. Both then and now that the legislation therein adopted was subversive of the true principles of Masonry, and in violation of its strongest obligations, for placing upon them the seal of our disapprobation, feeble as it was, we make no apology and feel no regret. It may be, companions, that in the novel and hasty legislation of the General Grand Chapter, you have experienced surprise as well as disappointment, but we think that upon the following considerations the wonder will cease:

1st. The anomalous and conscience-satisfying position assumed by some, and these *high in authority*, that a regular member of a Royal Arch Chapter can so remain, whilst the Chapter to which he belongs is declared to be clandestine by the highest authority known to Masonry, involves such an absurdity as to excite strong doubts in reference to the whole case. And when to this is added the consideration that much time had been uselessly consumed and frittered away, whilst many of the members were becoming wearied and anxious to return to their homes, can it be a matter of surprise, that a majority should be willing to cast their votes without proper consideration for any measures which they supposed likely to produce the most speedy termination of the difficulties.

2d. It is believed that impressions were made upon a portion of the committee inconsistent with the testimony and adverse to the true circumstances of the case.

3d. The Grand Master of the Templars had some time previously assumed the right to intermeddle in a controversy between Royal Arch Masons, over whom he possessed no power of control, and had issued a proclamation, declaring the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia to have been legally and constitutionally formed, and it may be that the power and influence of the office were used in pro-

curing the final result. But let me inquire how, where or when, did any Knight Templar, in any degree or grade of office, become "*ex officio*," judge or arbiter for Royal Arch Masons? That such did ever occur, is a lesson in Masonry which we have yet to learn. And are not the fundamental principles of chivalric and capitular Masonry so essentially different, that one must necessarily be independent of the other? Do we not all know that their connecting links are only those of consent and courtesy? From this summary of proceedings which we think embraces every important point necessary to make known, you will be enabled to act advisedly, and wisely determine whether you will remain longer in union with the General Grand Chapter, powerless as its constitution declares it to be as to any rights of "discipline, admonition, censure or instruction"? Whether you will continue joined to a factious and versatile power, without authority to enforce its own decrees? A "*nomine et umbra*"—a shadow without a substance, a body without a living heart. Whether you will consent that our ancient friend and ally, the dutiful and faithful child of our own creation, Potomac Chapter, shall in this summary manner be virtually deprived of existence, or turned over to the tender mercies of the Grand Chapter of the District, whom we fear would prove an arrogant and supercilious step-mother, without assigning a reason for such an indignity, or whether you will arise in the vigor of manhood, assert your freedom from all entangling and unjust alliances, and demand a recognition of your rights from the Masonic world? One or the other you *must* do. But, decide the question as you may, no longer let commotions and schisms interrupt the peaceful harmony which has heretofore united us; let there be "no contention among us, except that noble contention of who can best work and best agree;" let us launch our barque upon the open sea and under a calm and serene sky, with a fair wind, steer into a peaceful harbor; let us regard Masonry as a high and holy principle which from age to age has continued to endure; let us remember that our beloved institution still exists pure, virtuous and holy, now as ever, ready to stamp its benign influences upon the world and its enlightening rays upon the sorrowful and unhappy wherever found, and that to continue this happy state, we should never forget, as our most important duty, to preserve our beautiful temple spotless and undefiled, guarding it with ceaseless vigilance that drones may never be permitted to enter the sacred hives of our tabernacle, well knowing that more danger is to be apprehended from internal treachery than outward war; let us all and each of us endeavor to excel in the holy tenets of our profession, "Brotherly love, relief and truth;" and whilst we thus live, and thus act, harmony, peace and love will continue to abound in us, and the world looking on be constrained to say, "Behold, how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Companions, permit me now to say for myself, that the physical disabilities to which I have been so long subjected and which do not diminish or abate, admonish me to relinquish the cares and responsibilities of the high office with which you have again and again hon-

ored me, into abler and better hands; into those more zealous and anxious to promote the welfare of the craft, they cannot go; but I ask it of you all, as a personal favor, that I now be permitted to retire from its labors, and make this request the more readily, as I know you may choose a successor from the many worthy Companions around us, far more capable to discharge its duties than I can ever again hope to be. Is it too much to ask of you to believe me, when I say, that your repeated favors have been to me as a light, ever bright and glowing, illuminating my onward path with beams of never fading radiance, and which I shall ever hold in most grateful remembrance, till called to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns."

EXTRACT FROM REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Your Chairman has now "*gone over*" the roll of Grand Chapters, whose proceedings have been placed in his hands. A Report it may be called, but it is so imperfect a view of the acts and sayings as not to entitle it to the name of a Review. He has, however, *faithfully* endeavored to carry out the promises he made at his outset, that he would not extenuate anything nor aught set down in malice. How far he has performed his promise must be determined by his companions. Although he has extended a greater degree of attention to some than to others in this review, yet he extends to all equally the hand of fellowship, and as he has some, at least, of *human nature* in his composition, it may be that he has not been impartial in his attention to his companions. The want of time and opportunity have, to a great degree, been the impelling cause of this, and not the want of proper Masonic spirit.

We did and yet do propose to notice in a general review sundry topics, noticed or discussed in the proceedings before us, and which we had marked for comment, if time will permit. But there is one great subject, especially affecting us, which runs through this report as well as those we have been considering, which must claim our first attention. We have been challenged to the trial by the M. E. G. H. Priests of Ohio and South Carolina, in such manner as not to leave us the option of declining to answer for our misdeeds. That topic is the District of Columbia and the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

We have seen a copy of the address of the G. H. Priest Holmead, the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the body over which he presides, at least that part entitled "Maryland," and have received a variety of circulars, more or less connected with this subject, which we have not heretofore noticed or included in the list of documents submitted to us for review. *Ourselves* will not say that he has read all of these documents, having read only portions of some of them, and arrived at conclusions diametrically opposed to those uttered by some who profess to have read them. Some have pronounced the address of Companion Holmead as *beautiful*, as evincing great *Masonic spirit and zeal*; they profess to have read it. We pronounce it to be devoid of beauty and to be of *unmasonic spirit* and

zeal, according to our understanding of the principles and precepts of masonry. Here is a wide difference of *opinions*; but we refer the decision of this question to the "sober second thought" of those from whom we thus differ, to decide whether they or we are right. As a mere matter of composition, or intended as a *stump speech*, we will not deny its beauty; but as a *masonic* production the *ideas* and not the *words* give beauty; the "spice of bitterness" gives beauty to the former, but to the latter ugliness. We commend to the *judges* the conclusion of the remarks made on this subject by the M. E. G. H. Priest of Vermont. We have said thus much in no spirit of unkindness toward Companion Holmead. Our *feelings now* do not justify us in saying that we shall treat Companion French and his report with the same consideration; he is older and should know better.

But to return to the subject; we for ourself intend to make an honest, open confession, hoping thereby not only to obtain pardon for the past, but help for the future. At the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, November, 1866, on the last night of the session, and in the last hour of its session, a paper was offered by one of the District Companions, signed by Representatives of the District Chapters, asking a severance of this jurisdiction; others of the District Companions denied that such was the wish or desire of their constituents. The feeling of the Maryland Companions was rather in favor of the separation, and had been so for several years. Much discussion ensued, and ourself offered the resolution to refer the matter back to the District Chapters, calculating and designing that it should come up at the next *annual* convocation, when legal steps could be taken.

Then ensued a series of blunders on both sides, resulting in a condition of things not so easy of solution. Some of the Companions of the District, too impatient to "bide their time," rushed on to a point where the G. H. Priest felt it his duty to interpose his authority. He suspended the Chapters which he had the right to do; he suspended from their masonic standing the elected officers of the Chapters, which he had *no right* to do. He called a special meeting of the Grand Chapter to *determine on his acts*. The Grand Chapter sustained him in both these positions; and immediately following this action was a motion to restore these Companions to their former standing, which would have been done immediately but for the interposition of ourself, denying the right of a Grand or subordinate chapter to restore to masonic standing a suspended Companion, except on application duly made and through the voice of the ballot box. A committee was then appointed to wait on the Companions, and ourself left; the printed proceedings show what followed.

Ourself denies the right of a Grand Chapter in special convocation to act on any other matter or subject than such as is specified in the notice for such convocation. A separation of the jurisdiction was not intimated, in said notice and any action looking thereto was consequently *illegal*.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, under its constitution, had no right to alter, amend or change its constitution at a special convocation, although the G. H. Priest had called it for that purpose. Nor had it the right so to do at one single *annual* convocation, and therefore the action in the case at that time was illegal and void. Companion Mackey and others lay much stress on the consent given by this Grand Chapter to the severance of jurisdiction. What are the terms of that severance? "When said Grand Chapter is legally *formed and constituted* the separation shall be complete, and the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter over the District of Columbia shall cease." The steps taken thus far have been *illegal*. Do the steps taken by the Companions of the District in electing Grand Officers, and the ceremonies performed by Companion Mackey, remedy the defects? Companion Mackey says he "looked only to the consent of Maryland!" He did not look further, and does not seem to have inquired into the how! "Slipshod." An old Professor in former days wrote: "Great men propogate great errors," and it holds good in our day, at least in the case of Companion Mackey.

The G. H. Priest of Ohio propounds four interrogatories as to this case. The G. H. Priest of South Carolina, propounds five interrogatories in the same case. It is essential to a proper adjustment of the case, or at least to a proper understanding thereof, that they should be answered. Both of these G. H. Priests agree in propounding the same interrogatory as the starting point, to wit: the right of a State Grand Chapter to sever its subordinates, granting exclusive jurisdiction thereto over a portion of its territory, and disagree in their answers. In their second interrogatory they agree in the substance, differing only in the form of the proposition, to wit: the legal existence of or can there be a Grand Chapter Jurisdiction in the District of Columbia and disagree in their answer. The third interrogatory propounded by the G. H. Priest of South Carolina, was not found by the G. H. Priest of Ohio; yet it is the most important of all and must be practically answered by this Grand Chapter, either directly or indirectly, and is undodgable. We reproduce it because of its nature and importance. "Can a State Grand Chapter divest itself of all connection with a subordinate Chapter of its own creation, and deprive said Chapter of its charter where no cause of offence is given, where there is nothing recusant or insubordinate in its morals and conduct, and where the said Chapter itself insists upon maintaining its ancient original relations with the parent Grand Chapter?" We submit to those who have acted on this case, whether this Grand Chapter dare give any other than a negative answer without entailing upon itself ineradicable infamy? The third Ohio and fourth South Carolina interrogatories are nearly the same, and the fourth Ohio and fifth South Carolina interrogatories have the same significance.

In our judgment the M. E. G. H. Priest of South Carolina has furnished the key note for the solution of the "*muddle*," (see page 9.) The Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, at its annual convocation in November, 1867, did take the necessary

steps to place herself right by retracing her steps. Some have lauded the *masonic doings and spirit* exhibited by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. The suspension from masonic standing of the G. H. Priest of an *ancient and universally recognized* Grand Chapter by one not possessed of these characteristics, without charges duly preferred and without trial, may be in accordance with the spirit and teachings of masonry where *reason* has not "*left her throne*," and where the "*genus homo*" has not undergone the Darwinian metamorphosis so brilliantly described by the *poet*. For *ourselves*, we prefer the fossil, and it may be Darwinian ideas of former days, taught in *charity, brotherly love and justice*. The attempt to annihilate by the word "*clandestine*," a regularly chartered and constituted chapter, older than itself or any of its subordinates, may comport with masonic teaching in non-Darwinized and rational lands, but we pray that we may never be cursed with such expanded and liberal ideas and teachings.

A few words as to the Report on "Maryland." On a first perusal we were not disposed to charge the authorship of this *masonic* document to the account of Companion French, but on further consideration have thought that might be an error. At all events his name stands as first endorser, and therefore we are justified in holding him responsible for its utterances. Having taken *French* leave of us, he manifests a desire not to be forgotten. Considering the relations heretofore existing between the Companion and the members of this Grand Chapter, we think we had a right to expect the manifestation of a different spirit at his leave taking, which we think rather unkind, "*ecce signum*," (see page 4.) The Companion may think himself as the first discoverer of this *Egyptian nebula* entitled to possession. But we protest against his claim; his transition from *darkness* to light has been too sudden for perfect sight; knowing that eyes which have long been hidden in darkness are blinded by the sudden impression of light, we are led to infer that some one else at least suggested the poetic idea.

We are not hypocrite enough to thank, even in a Pickwickian sense, the Companion for the advice he so ostentatiously proffers. The respect we entertain for it is equalled only by our appreciation of his ideas of *honor*. He tells us "the path of duty is plain. It leads to honor and to success." Let us see what his *advice* is and his idea of *honor*. He says, "let her own that she has been *false* to her masonic obligations to us, and we will freely forgive her." We do not believe that perfidy to obligations can ever be made honorable. In direct juxtaposition with this *advice*, he says: "Our companions in Maryland have a common interest with us;" then why separate? "We have learned to *love and respect* each other!" We, that is *ourselves*, entertain no respect for those who are "false to their masonic obligations." The reading of these sentences excites in us pretty much the same feeling as must have existed in the breast of one whose utterances we lately read; to wit, that "the worst of insults was to be kicked by a——," well we won't finish the quotation, but

we do not the less dislike the sensation produced by the pedal jactitations of a certain long-eared quadruped. We are not Darwinian enough to be gulled by such expressions in conclusion of such a document as "With malice toward none, with charity for all." We made no promise as to our notice of the author of that *report*, and therefore cannot be accused of being *false* to our obligation. We feel that we have descended low enough toward the author "to meet on the level," and we think we have said enough to "part on the square." The job has not been a pleasant one to us, we have not enjoyed it; he perhaps did.

* * * * *

We would suggest that the legislation we have noticed, is in our opinion, un-masonic. We do not believe that a Royal Arch Chapter has a right to pass a law that no Mason shall deal in liquors, under penalty of expulsion or suspension. This may be *in order* among Sons of Temperance and Good Templars, but our *Masonic* teaching has been that "Temperance is that due restraint of our affections and passions which renders the body tame and governable, and frees the mind from the allurements of vice." It is possible to push our ideas of temperance into intemperance. We confess to the least particle of curiosity on this point, and that is, whether any of these temperance legislators were in this band of brothers who met at St. Louis in September last, to enjoy "*social good-fellowship*," and mend up by *resolutions* the disjointed affairs in our jurisdiction? If so, we think we can account for the "*milk in the cocoa-nut*."

REPORT.

Your committee, to whom was referred so much of the address of the M. E. G. H. Priest as relates to the doings of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, in connection with this jurisdiction, would respectfully report that they have examined the subject, and submit the following as the results at which they have arrived.

1st. That the General Grand Chapter possesses no authority or power in the matter whatever.

Article first, section second of its Constitution says, "The General Grand Chapter has and possesses no other powers than such as are granted and delegated to it, or as are indispensably necessary to the exercise of its general powers and consistent with the nature of the confederation between the State Grand Chapters. It can exercise no *doubtful powers*, nor any powers by implication merely. Is the power assumed in its resolution recognizing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia such an one as it may exercise? Your committee have not found any authority given to the General Grand Chapter to divide the territory or subordinate chapters of any State Grand Chapter, either expressed or implied; nor can they perceive an indispensable necessity for it, in carrying out its general powers. Nor have your committee any evidence that the General Grand Chapter plead any such pretext in justification of its action. Your committee do find, however, in the constitution of the General Grand Chapter,

that it shall "exercise no power of discipline, admonition, censure or instruction," in regard to the several State Grand Chapters. This act is therefore extra-judicial, and as such, of no binding force on this or any other State Grand Chapter; in short, a nullity, and as such we repudiate it.

2nd. That the adoption of these resolutions is an unwarranted assumption of power and an unauthorized interference in the affairs of this Grand Chapter, demanding its prompt resistance and rejection, not only for its own protection, but as a warning to other State Grand Chapters, zealously to guard against similar encroachments on their jurisdictions under whatever form or guise they may be attempted.

The question may here be suggested, "Do you intend to violate your fealty to the General Grand Chapter, and resist its authority—do you intend to secede from its jurisdiction?" Our fealty remains unchanged, and there can be no resistance to authority where none exists; and, therefore, in this case there is no cause for seceding. But we do intend to maintain our fealty by holding the General Grand Chapter to the maintenance of its own organic law; we intend to uphold its authority by holding it to the exercise only of such powers as is legitimately possesses.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia at its annual convocation in November, 1867, did declare the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia irregular and clandestine, and did forbid intercourse with it and its members. The third resolution adopted by the General Grand Chapter, if worth anything, makes void the action of this Grand Chapter on that subject, and is in violation of a clear and indubitable right and the lawful power of this Grand Chapter. The second resolution pronounces a severance of the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, and assumes jurisdiction over a subordinate chartered by this Grand Chapter without the consent of either of the parties interested in the question, and deprives said subordinate chapter of the rights conferred by its charter. All of which is a palpable violation of the General Grand Constitution, an infraction of the powers and jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, and a virtual abrogation of the chartered privileges of Potomac Chapter, No. 8. Your committee cannot see how this Grand Chapter dare do otherwise than maintain the position she has assumed, endorse the protest of her G. H. Priest, disregard the action of the General Grand Chapter and hold it as a nullity, and retain Potomac Chapter, No. 8, under her own protection, and maintain her in all the rights accorded to legally constituted subordinate chapters.

Constitutions are made for the protection of the rights of the individual chapters, and for the restraint of assumptions on the part of the Grand Bodies.

Our committee therefore submit the following resolutions for the adoption of the Grand Chapter :

Resolved, That the action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in regard to the District of Columbia, is in direct violation of its constitution, and therefore null and of no effect, and has no binding force.

Resolved, That a State Grand Chapter has no right to violate its constitution and to adhere to such action, and that the General Grand Chapter is more restricted in this respect.

Resolved, That we request the several State Grand Chapters to review their action, take into consideration all the facts of the case, and adopt measures in accordance therewith.

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter believes that she has now placed herself in her proper position, and will maintain her rightful authority over every foot of the original territory of the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That the sentence heretofore pronounced by this Grand Chapter against her reculant subordinates and their members is hereby reaffirmed, and all those true to their allegiance are required to take due notice thereof, and act accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. OHR,	} Committee.
M. L. DUDLEY,	
GEO. A. HANSON,	

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND R.: A.: CHAPTER
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
For the Year 1868.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON CITY:
M'GILL & WITHEROW, PRINTERS AND STEREOTYPERS.
1868.

COMPLIMENTS OF PROCEEDINGS.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *March 12, 1868.*

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met in Special Convocation, on the call of the M. E. G. High Priest, at Central Masonic Hall, at 6 o'clock, p. m.

PRESENT:

R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	D. G. H. P.,	-	G. H. Priest, p. t.
"	"	C. W. HANCOCK,	- - -	G. King.
"	"	A. T. LONGLEY,	- - -	G. Scribe, p. t.
"	"	N. D. LARNER,	- - -	G. Secretary.
"	"	J. O. GOODRICH,	- - -	G. C. Host, p. t.
"	"	A. E. H. JOHNSON,	- - -	G. P. Sojourner, p. t.
"	"	J. E. MASON,	- - -	G. R. A. Captain.
"	"	E. B. MACGROTTY,	- - -	G. M. 3d Vail.
"	"	H. A. WHALLON,	- - -	G. M. 2d Vail.
"	"	W. H. ORCUTT,	- - -	G. M. 1st Vail.
Comp. L.	STODDARD,	- - -	- - -	G. Janitor.

And Representatives from Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The Grand Chapter was opened in due form.

The M. E. G. High Priest being absent, the acting G. High Priest stated that the Grand Chapter had been called together for the purpose of determining the best course to be pursued in relation to the report made to the body styling itself the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, in November, 1867, by Ezra L. Stevens, and which contained numerous mis-statements.

On motion of Comp. Mason, the report was referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, with instructions to report a reply to the same on Wednesday evening, March 18, at 6½ o'clock, to which time the Grand Chapter was called from work in Convocation.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *March 18, 1868.*

The Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia met at 6½ o'clock, p. m., and resumed work.

PRESENT:

R.: E.: Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	D.: G.: H.: P.:,	-	G.: H.: Priest, p. t.
"	"	A. T. LONGLEY,	- - -	Grand King, p. t.
"	"	J. W. GRIFFIN,	- - -	Grand Scribe, p. t.
"	"	N. D. LARNER,	- - -	Grand Secretary.
"	"	C. T. NUTZE,	- - -	Grand C.: Host, p. t.
"	"	J. DANIELS,	- - -	Grand P.: Sojourner.
"	"	J. E. MASON,	- - -	Grand R.: A.: Capt.
"	"	E. B. MACGROTTY,	- - -	Grand Master 3d Vail.
"	"	J. A. DUREN,	- - -	G.: M.: 2d Vail, p. t.
"	"	G. W. PRATT,	- - -	G.: M.: 1st Vail, p. t.
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	- - -	- - -	Grand Janitor.

And Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Comp. J. E. Mason, on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Grand Chapter, at Special Convocation, held on the 12th inst., a reply to the report made to the Grand Chapter of Maryland, in November, 1867, by E. L. Stevens, which was read and adopted, and the Grand Secretary directed to cause the same to be printed in pamphlet form, and copies transmitted to the various Grand Chapters in the United States.

(See Report "Maryland" in Foreign Correspondence.)

No further business appearing, the Grand Chapter was closed in due form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *May 11, 1868.*

The Semi-Annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, corner of D and Ninth streets, on Monday evening, at 8 o'clock, p. m.

PRESENT:

R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	D. G. H. P.,	-	<i>Grand H. P. p. t.</i>
"	C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	<i>Grand King.</i>
"	W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	C. SMITH,	-	-	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
"	N. D. LARNER,	-	-	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
"	C. H. HALL,	-	-	<i>Rev. Grand Chaplain.</i>
"	J. LOCKIE,	-	-	<i>Grand Capt. of Host.</i>
"	J. DANIELS,	-	-	<i>Grand P. Sojourner.</i>
"	J. ED. MASON,	-	-	<i>Grand R. A. Capt.</i>
"	E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	<i>Grand M. 3d Vail.</i>
"	H. A. WHALLON,	-	-	<i>G. M. 2d Vail.</i>
"	C. E. COON,	-	-	<i>G. M. 1st Vail, p. t.</i>
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	-	-	<i>Janitor.</i>

The Grand Chapter was opened in due form, with prayer by the Rev. Grand Chaplain, and, on calling the roll, the following Representatives and Past High Priests responded:

Columbia Chapter, No. 1—J. Lockie, H. P.; J. T. Brown, K.; C. T. Nutze, S.; and P. H. Priest L. G. Stephens.

Washington Chapter, No. 2—A. T. Longley, H. P.; G. Boyden, K., J. O. Goodrich, S.; and Past High Priests W. Middleton, J. M. Smith.

Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 3—H. A. Whallon, H. P.; J. Daniels, S.; and P. H. Priest C. W. Hancock.

Eureka Chapter, No. 4—E. B. MacGrotty, H. P., and P. H. Priest C. Smith.

Lafayette Chapter, No. 5—N. D. Larner, H. P.; C. H. Moulton, S.

The proceedings of Special and Resumed Convocations were read and approved.

Comp. W. Middleton, Grand Scribe, and Comp. C. H. Hall, Rev. Grand Chaplain, were presented by the Grand Captain of the Host, and installed into their respective positions by the M. E. Grand High Priest.

A bill from Messrs. Gibson Bros., for printing, amounting to \$18 50, was presented, and ordered to be paid.

Comp. Middleton, from the Committee appointed to revise the

work of the several degrees, stated that the Committee was not prepared to submit a final report, and asked for further time; which was granted.

The report submitted at the Convocation of May 27, 1867, on the "Order of Priesthood," and postponed for action at some future Convocation, was, on motion of Comp. Middleton, referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Comps. Middleton, Lockie, and Larner.

On motion of Comp. Daniels, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Representatives of this Grand Chapter be, and they are hereby, instructed to be present in person, or by proxy, at the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, on the 15th of September next, and request admission as members of that body."

The Committee appointed to revise the Constitution of the Grand Chapter asked for further time; which was granted.

On motion, the salary of the Grand Secretary was fixed at \$100 per annum, payable semi-annually.

An invitation from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, inviting the Grand Chapter to unite with them in the ceremonies of laying the corner-stone of the new Masonic Temple, on the 20th instant, was received, accepted, and an invitation extended to the R.: A.: Masons of the District to unite with the Grand Chapter on that occasion.

On motion, the Grand Treasurer was authorized to negotiate a loan of \$300 to defray the expenses of the Representatives of the Grand Chapter to the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

There being no further business, the Grand Chapter was closed in due form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 9, 1868.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, corner of D and Ninth streets, on Monday evening, at 8 o'clock.

PRESENT:

M. E. Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	-	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	<i>D. G. H. Priest.</i>
"	" C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	<i>Grand King.</i>
"	" W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	" C. SMITH,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
"	" N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
"	" C. H. HALL,	-	-	-	<i>Rev. G. Chaplain.</i>
"	" J. LOCKIE,	-	-	-	<i>G. C. of Host.</i>
"	" J. DANIELS,	-	-	-	<i>G. P. Sojourner.</i>
"	" J. E. MASON,	-	-	-	<i>G. R. A. Capt.</i>
"	" E. B. MACGROTTY,	-	-	-	<i>G. M. 3d Vail.</i>
"	" J. H. RUSSELL,	-	-	-	<i>G. M. 2d Vail, p. t.</i>
"	" W. H. ORCUTT,	-	-	-	<i>G. M. 1st Vail.</i>
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, with prayer by the Rev. Grand Chaplain, and on calling the roll the following Past Grand Officers, Representatives, and Past High Priest responded:

Past Grand High Priest, B. B. French.

" " King, A. Glass.

" " Scribe, J. E. F. Holmead.

Of Columbia Chapter, No. 1—J. Lockie, H. P.; J. T. Brown, K.; and L. G. Stephens, P. H. Priest.

Of Washington Chapter, No. 2—J. O. Goodrich, S., and J. E. F. Holmead, A. Glass, W. Middleton, and J. M. Smith, P. H. Priests.

Of Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 3—D. B. Searle, H. P.; J. Daniels, K.; J. W. Griffin, S., and C. W. Hancock, P. H. Priest.

Of Eureka Chapter No. 4—E. B. MacGrotty, H. P.; A. Buchly, K., and C. Smith, P. H. Priest.

Of Lafayette Chapter, No. 5—N. D. Larner, H. P.

The minutes of the Semi-Annual Convocation, held May 11, 1868, having been read and approved, the M. E. Grand High Priest delivered the following address:

COMPANIONS: We are permitted once again to meet in Grand Chapter through the merciful providence of Him who overlooks and sustains all things for the

best interests of the human family, and in whose wisdom and goodness our duty is to have full and complete reliance and faith.

This especially becomes us who have hitherto been, as it would seem, objects of His gracious providence, having been brought through trials, clustered as they have been—and with dark and blackened visage frowning upon us—threatening disasters of no ordinary character, as men and as Masons. False warnings and gloomy portents we have in the past refused to heed; therefore, the march of Capitular Masonry, in this jurisdiction, has not only not been impeded, but has suffered no loss or detriment. Our ranks are unbroken. Yes, to-night, I believe, our numbers are complete.

The shafts of death, which through the past season were hurled swiftly and profusely, consigning, as they did, to the resting-place, within the damp, dark confines of the tomb, many an honored citizen, failed to select and strike a single one of our number.

Certainly teaching such as this should not be permitted to pass without enforcing upon us lessons and warnings which tell only too plainly unto us, not only life's uncertainty, but our decreed frailty.

Let us take this lesson, then, intended to be taught us, in the only way in which it can, in truth, be received, since it cannot be claimed that the exception, in our behalf, has been the result of aught that has specially commended us to the protecting care of a good and gracious God.

The following resolution was passed at the late Triennial Convention of the General Grand Chapter of the United States:

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is hereby recognized as a regular Grand Chapter, and its officers entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter."

This decree of the General Grand Chapter must settle forever, in the minds of all impartial and truth-loving men, the fact that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, notwithstanding all that has been surmised, said, and written to the contrary, was, on May 23, 1867, having been previously legally formed, at that time legally constituted. I pretend not to deny but that there were those within the jurisdiction who had conscientious doubts and misgivings as to the legality of our procedure, and who withheld from us the hand and heart of fellowship.

The action of the late G. G. High Priest, which I mean not to further criticize, gave to the shadow of such doubts an apparent form and reality, which seemingly proffered an invulnerable shield of defence for all who for real or imaginary cause saw fit to array themselves against us.

To all who hear me to-night, my judgment and feelings with reference to the whole matter of the formation and constituting of our Grand Chapter are well and abundantly known, and I appeal to you, my Companions, for the truth of this assertion, that upon all proper occasions they have been fully and fearlessly expressed. And if at such times I have spoken with warmth and vehemence, it was from no wish to trench upon the rights of any man, or do violence to the feelings of others; but simply because I felt that great principles were involved, and that where principles were involved, compromises were impossible and expediency must be abjured.

My judgment then was just what now it is, that all that was done by us, upon the occasions alluded to, was in perfect accordance with Masonic law, custom, and at least American usage; and so the General Grand Chapter of the United States has now decreed, in terms most clear and unmistakable, thus endorsing to the full the legality of our formation.

Should I attempt to deny that I have deeply⁴ regretted the discord which has found place for the past eighteen months in our jurisdiction, I should be doing violence to my own heartfelt convictions. Yes, beyond that, I should be found wanting and false to that divine spirit of harmony and brotherly love which underlie the entire superstructure of Masonry and give to it its vestments, adornments, and its most priceless jewels.

It, of necessity, must be to all a most gratifying assurance, that the nebulousness which for a season, to the eyes of some, darkened the brightness which should have lit up and emblazoned the pavement, walls, and arches of the Grand Chapter, and thus obscured its ever-to-be-admired outline and symmetry, has been all dispersed, as if by the gracious decree of some seemingly-presiding Deity over all our hopes and works.

And now, to-night, we look into each others faces, as of late we have not, with hearts more warmly trusting, and we pledge each other with more of faith and love in the great and good work which lies before us, with full assurance that we have not only passed beyond the Rubicon of all doubt, but also of bitter criticism and more than bitter denunciation.

My Companions, let us, nevertheless, forget not that the hour of triumph is also the hour of magnanimity; and as our contest has been simply and alone for great principles, and as we have no personal animosities to assuage, no personal wrongs to redress, and even if we had, let the past be buried deep in oblivion, and to-night let us offer the right hand of brotherly feeling and love to those with whom we have been contesting, and unite again the links of the golden chain, which should ever bind our hearts together as one heart in all the future.

And this we say and offer, with no holding back or mental reservation, but in all soberness and truthfulness, as if bathed in the very waters of a divine charity. Let us gather once again around our common altar, and with mingled hands kindle afresh those vestal fires which should ever, here where we meet, burn with a purity and brightness—yea, a purity and brightness only eclipsed by the light which comes from the Church of the ever-living God.

The issue between us and those who differed from us, and which has been settled by the General Grand Chapter, was simply how far, or to what extent, the General Grand Chapter had the right or power to exercise control in the formation of this Grand Chapter.

We simply accepted what we believed to be the condition of things as then existing among us. Had our Chapters derived their charters from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, the point would clearly have admitted of no doubt that, before proceeding to form a Grand Chapter here, the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter would have been a positive pre-requisite, for then, according to the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, we would have been an unoccupied territory;

but such was not the case. We found our parent not in the bosom of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, but in that of the Grand Chapter of Maryland. Nor was it an accidental adoption of us by Maryland, for the General Grand Chapter of the United States located us there. Having obtained the consent of Maryland for the separation, our four Chapters met, all having derived their charters from Maryland, and formed our present Grand Chapter. Now, on this point I challenge and defy contradiction, that an independent territorial jurisdiction in this country can be found having three or more subordinates legally formed; that, when by these a Grand body was formed, universal recognition was from it withheld. And happy is it for American Masonry that this doctrine, for so I call it, has ever prevailed.

The doctrine of State rights, which to some extent has been ignored in the political world, has always prevailed in Masonry. No writer has ever questioned it, or even suggested its modification. Capitular Masonry has no independent or distinctive law. Masonic law all springs from Blue Masonry. Therefore, of course, in Blue Masonry, we must, of necessity, and there alone, find the key which unlocks the avenues of its approach, and which opens all its varied ramifications. We see the Grand Lodge of England, the Mother Grand Lodge of the world, and from which we all, either directly or indirectly, spring, establishing a Provincial Grand Lodge in Canada, Nova Scotia, and her other Provinces. It cannot for a moment be denied that all the life and vitality of Canadian Masonry sprang directly from the Grand Lodge in England; the same being merely transmitted through a subordinate of her own creation. Still, we find her own subordinates in Canada meeting and forming a Grand Lodge entirely independent of the jurisdiction of the English Grand Lodge. How was this Canadian Grand Lodge received by the Grand Lodges of America? Did our Grand Lodges hesitate to recognize and fraternize with the Canadian Grand Lodge? No; by each and all, she was admitted to full fellowship, and this, too, in the face of the most earnest protest of the Grand Lodge of England; the Grand Lodge of England assuming the position first taken by those who differed from us in the formation of our Grand Chapter, to wit, that *consent was necessary*. After some years of fierce strife, the Grand Lodge of England, finding her position with reference to the Canadian Grand Lodge utterly untenable, reluctantly, but with some grace, abandoned the same.

The instance of Nova Scotia, although more recent, yet in every particular is analogous: England attempting the exercise of the same control, which also was finally abandoned.

It is not to be supposed that, among those who differed from us in our formation, a single Companion can be found who will hesitate to admit that our case was far stronger than either that of Canada or Nova Scotia.

They ignored entirely the parent body from which they derived their existence, while we asked and obtained the consent of Maryland, from whence our charters were all derived.

The resolution before quoted would certainly seem to show that our errors, if any, in the past, in the superior wisdom and judgment of the General Grand Chapter, had not been great, as the resolution and report are unconditional. It is not to be presumed for a moment, by any rational mind, that a Convention

composed of so much wisdom and intelligence, and which numbered among its members many of the brightest names that not only adorn the annals of Masonry, but the pages of American history, would thus unceremoniously take by the hand, without washing, a clandestine body. Therefore, we have the right to assume that they considered us legal, that we were a Grand body constituted and established in accordance with the practice and customs of American Masonry.

The General Grand Chapter, at its triennial meeting, after passing the resolution before quoted, also saw fit to enter among its records the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That Potomac Chapter, within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, not having united in the formation of said Grand Chapter, is now under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, but without territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the Capitular Degrees.

"Resolved, That all acts of censure, suspension, or expulsion, growing out of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, be declared null and void, and Companions of the District of Columbia, who may have affiliated with the Chapter, be, and are hereby, declared to be in good and regular standing as members of such Chapter."

In reference to the first of these, argument certainly is entirely unnecessary.

The resolution first referred to, as passed by the General Grand Chapter, affords the complete answer to the resolution referring to Potomac Chapter, and, if I may be pardoned the expression, shows its complete absurdity. For, it must be borne in mind, that the Potomac Chapter resolution was passed after our unconditional right to representation had been declared. Now, once being admitted as a member of the General Grand Chapter, we stood the peer of any of its constituents; and, therefore, of necessity, had full control over all Chapters working in our jurisdiction. This being the case, the General Grand Chapter had no more right to provide or declare that a Chapter should continue to meet under a charter derived from Maryland, than it had to authorize us to issue a Charter to a chapter in Baltimore, since it is notoriously true, that Potomac Chapter derived not its charter from the General Grand Chapter, but from Maryland.

I sincerely trust that the Companions voting for this resolution will bring the question calmly and dispassionately home, and ask themselves if, in reality, they believed, and intended so to decide, that, within their own territorial limits, the General Grand Chapter has any power to declare that a Chapter shall meet whose charter is not derived from their own Grand body, but from a sister State Grand Chapter.

Then, again, the wording of this resolution is so peculiar. It authorizes Potomac Chapter to meet, but not to work. Now, I for one will yield the whole question, if a single instance can be shown, in this or any other country, where a Masonic body has authority to meet, and is at the same time forbidden to receive a petition or confer a degree. And again, the *charter* of Potomac Chapter, under which she is empowered to meet by the General Grand Chapter, authorizes her to confer six degrees, two of which are totally ignored by the General Grand Chapter herself, *and which she will not allow her subordinate to confer.*

How this nice little batch of inconsistencies is to be reconciled, I am free to confess, I have not the ability to form even a conjecture.

In reference to the last resolution, the following clause from the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter is a sufficient answer :

"It shall have no power of discipline, admonition, censure, or instruction over the Grand Chapters, nor any legislative powers whatever, not hereby specially granted, nor any authority to suspend the proceedings of any State Grand Charters, nor shall entertain any complaint against a Grand Chapter, preferred by any subordinate Chapter or individual Mason in that jurisdiction or elsewhere; but it may, upon proper reference to it of any matter of controversy between any two or more Grand Chapters, and even where the question is not one of Masonic law, custom, or usage, (both or all such Grand Chapters consenting to such reference,) act as final arbiter between them, and settle such controversy."

If the General Grand Chapter had, for a single moment, questioned the legality of our formation, and had insisted that, before admission, had we submitted to the same, we should be healed, its right to pass the same might not have been susceptible of question. But admitting our legality, and then passing a resolution that, with us, there was not the power to discipline a Companion for failing to obey a Masonic summons, has the appearance, at least, of a wanton absurdity.

But over all these transactions, we would draw the veil of charity, knowing, as we do, that constitutional provisions cannot be abrogated by simple resolutions; and that, while our Constitution remains, vested rights are not to be stricken down, or even overawed.

And now, in conclusion, permit me to say, in behalf of you, my Companions, and for myself, that we return heartfelt thanks to those of our sister Grand Chapters which, in the dark hour of our difficulties, so nobly extended to us the aid we needed from generous hands and hearts. And to those who hesitated and doubted and battled with us, now that the General Grand Chapter has so emphatically spoken, we extend a cordial greeting, and hope soon to have, even from them, the recognition hitherto withheld.

And now, my Companions, the skies having brightened over us, the clouds of our discontent having all rolled away, we look into the future with more than ordinary interest. And it becomes me, at this juncture, while predicting for the Grand Chapter of this jurisdiction a world of usefulness and honor and glory ahead, to express my most grateful acknowledgments for the consideration I have ever had at your hands, and to return my most sincere thanks for all the honors you have seen fit to confer upon me.

Wishing for each and all the life-cup full of health and happiness, I conclude by saying, as was said of him our great exemplar, with the hope it may so be with us—

"And Solomon had peace on all sides round about him."—1 *Kings*, 4: 24.

Reports from Standing and Special Committees being called for, on motion, the reception of their reports was postponed until Monday evening, the 30th instant, to which time it was announced by the M.: E.: G.: H.: Priest the Grand Chapter would be called from work in Convocation.

M. E. Comp. B. B. French, who represented the Grand High Priest at the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, held in St. Louis, Missouri, gave a full account of the doings of that body, especially in relation to their action on the affairs of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and concluded by congratulating the Companions upon the happy termination of our difficulties.

On motion, the thanks of the Grand Chapter were tendered to the Representatives of the same, for the manner in which they performed their duties at the meeting of the General Grand Chapter.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand Chapter an official copy of the resolutions passed by the General Grand Chapter, in relation to the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, when, on motion, it was ordered that the first resolution be spread on the minutes, and the other two, together with the address delivered this evening by the Grand High Priest, be referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Companions B. B. French, J. Daniels, J. Lockie, Rev. C. H. Hall, and J. Ed. Mason, to report on same at Resumed Convocation, to be held on the 30th instant.

The first resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is hereby recognized as a regular Grand Chapter, and its officers entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter."

The Grand Secretary submitted the following resolution, which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on the Address of the Grand High Priest:

Resolved, That the resolution passed by this Grand Chapter, June 19, 1867, whereby M. E. Companion James G. Smith was suspended from all the rights and privileges of R. A. Masonry, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and M. E. Companion James G. Smith be, and he is hereby, restored to all the rights and privileges of R. A. Masonry.

On motion, the following appropriations were made:

To pay J. L. Pearson, for printing, \$6 50; Gibson Bros., for printing, \$25; Grand Secretary, for postage, \$1 64; and to enable the Grand Treasurer to refund amount borrowed from Subordinate Chapters, \$300; salary of Grand Janitor, for the year 1868, \$25.

The Grand Secretary presented, on behalf of the Grand Chapter of Iowa, a bound copy of the Proceedings of that Grand

Chapter, from its formation to the present year; when, on motion, the thanks of the Grand Chapter were returned to the Grand Chapter of Iowa for its valuable gift.

On motion, five hundred copies of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter, for the year 1868, were ordered to be printed.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of officers, for the ensuing year, with the following result:

Grand High Priest, Comp. B. B. French; Deputy Grand High Priest, Comp. J. Lockie; Grand King, Comp. H. A. Whallon; Grand Scribe, Comp. W. Middleton; Grand Treasurer, Comp. C. Smith; Grand Secretary, Comp. N. D. Larnier; Rev. Grand Chaplain, Comp. C. H. Hall; Grand Captain of the Host, Comp. J. Daniels.

The Grand High Priest then installed M. E. Comp. B. B. French as Grand High Priest, who addressed the Grand Chapter in an appropriate manner.

On motion, the Grand High Priest was requested to appoint some suitable Companion as Grand Visitor and Lecturer; and, in compliance with the same, the Grand High Priest appointed Comp. C. W. Hancock.

The Grand Chapter was then called to a resumed Convocation on Monday evening, 30th instant, at 7 o'clock.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 30, 1868.

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met at 7 o'clock, p. m., and resumed work.

PRESENT:

M. E. Comp.	B. B. FRENCH,	-	-	-	-	Grand High Priest.
R. E.	"	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	D. G. H. Priest.
"	"	C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	Grand King.
"	"	W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	-	Grand Scribe.
"	"	C. SMITH,	-	-	-	Grand Treasurer.
"	"	N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	Grand Secretary.
"	"	J. LOCKIE,	-	-	-	Grand Capt. of Host.
"	"	C. H. HALL,	-	-	-	Rev. Grand Chaplain.
"	"	J. DANIELS,	-	-	-	Grand P. Sojourner.
"	"	J. ED. MASON,	-	-	-	Grand R. A. Capt.
"	"	E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	G. M. 3d Vail.
"	"	H. A. WHALLON,	-	-	-	G. M. 2d Vail.
"	"	J. H. RUSSELL,	-	-	-	G. M. 1st Vail, p. t.
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	-	Grand Janitor.

And Representatives from all the Chapters.

The proceedings of previous Convocation were read and approved.

The M. E. Grand High Priest announced the following appointments:

Comp.	E. B. MacGROTTY, as	-	-	-	-	Grand P. Sojourner.
"	J. EDWIN MASON, as	-	-	-	-	Grand R. A. Capt.
"	J. O. GOODRICH, as	-	-	-	-	Grand M. 3d Vail.
"	J. MOODY SMITH, as	-	-	-	-	Grand M. 2d Vail.
"	D. S. JONES, as	-	-	-	-	Grand M. 1st Vail.
"	L. STODDARD, as	-	-	-	-	Grand Janitor.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence—Comp. J. EDWIN MASON,

" L. G. STEPHENS,

" W. H. ORCUTT.

Committee on Jurisprudence—

Comp. N. P. CHIPMAN,

" J. DANIELS,

" J. LOCKIE.

Committee on Charters—

Comp. C. SMITH,

" A. T. LONGLEY,

" J. W. GRIFFIN.

Committee on Accounts—

Comp. E. B. MacGROTTY,

" W. MIDDLETON,

" C. W. HANCOCK.

The M. E. Grand High Priest then installed the officers, both elective and appointed, they all being present.

Reports of Committees being called for, Comp. J. Edwin Mason, on behalf of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted the following report, which was read and ordered to be spread on the minutes:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia :

The proceedings of the Grand Chapters of the following States have been received and carefully examined: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, California, Kentucky, and Canada; twenty-eight Grand Chapters in all.

These proceedings cover four thousand pages, which have been perused by your Committee, and from which the following synopsis has been compiled:

ALABAMA.

First upon the alphabetical list of States comes one of the earliest friends of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

The Forty-First Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held at Montgomery, December 3, 1867, forty-five Chapters being represented. Its harmonious proceedings were marked with that fraternal feeling that has ever characterized the Royal Arch Craft of Alabama.

Prosperity and Masonic unity appeared to govern this Grand Chapter in all its deliberations.

Our kind friends stretched forth their hands and clasped in true brotherly fellowship their Companions in the District of Columbia. Nothing could be more hearty or fraternal than the manner in which Alabama recognized the new Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, when it formed in 1867.

For this token of their kindness and good will we extend them the right hand of fellowship, and greet Alabama as our friend in the first dark days of adversity that our Grand Chapter experienced.

"El amigo en la adversidad e amigo en realidad."

With these greetings we rest our case even as her name in the Indian dialect indicates—Alabama—"here we rest," so in the true spirit of Masonry we will rest together, as the lambs lie down to refreshment in green pastures, and are led beside the still waters.

M. E. Grand High Priest George D. Norris, in his annual address, referred as follows to the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia:

"In June last, I received a communication from M. E. J. E. F. Holmead, G. H. P. of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, asking for recognition by this Grand Chapter; also a communication from Potomac R. A.

Chapter, No. 8, District of Columbia; also a circular addressed to all R. A. Masons within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, and signed by M. Ex. John L. Lewis, Gen. G. H. P.; and, from a careful consideration of the whole matter, would recommend the full recognition of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and that we extend to them the right hand of fellowship. As our Grand Chapter does not recognize the authority of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, not being within or under its jurisdiction, the edicts of its Gen. G. H. P. can have no weight or effect within our jurisdiction."

For these kind words we tender our thanks to Alabama, and before we bow our parting salutation, we cross palms with our southern sister, and trust that fraternal intercourse so auspiciously begun may continue until

"Moons shall wax and wane no more."

"Qui dedit nobis principium, idem dabit prosperos successus."

CALIFORNIA.

The "Golden State" held its Fourteenth Annual Convocation at San Francisco, October 14, 1867—twenty-nine Chapters being represented.

An able review of the various Grand Chapter proceedings is given by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

In a foot-note is appended the fact, that information had just then reached them of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and the pronouncement of G. G. H. P. Lewis, to which is "added the signature of M. E. A. T. C. Pierson, G. G. K.," which no doubt gave greater weight to the edict of the G. G. H. P.

The Committee on Jurisprudence was specially appointed to report on the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and brought to light the following resolution:

"To the M. E. Grand Chapter of California:

"Your Committee, to whom was referred the papers in the matter of the establishment of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the District of Columbia, have had the same under consideration, and would respectfully report, that they cannot see for what purpose this reference has been made, as it is not within the province of this body to pass upon the action of the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America. No body has the right to do so but the General Grand Chapter of the United States. The General Grand High Priest having declared the Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the District of Columbia to be irregular and clandestine, there is nothing for us to do, as loyal Masons, but to submit to that decision."

"Your Committee, therefore, return the papers herewith, and ask to be discharged from their further consideration.

"All which is respectfully submitted.

"JAMES LAWRENCE ENGLISH,
THOMAS H. CASWELL,
ADOLPHUS HOLLUS,
WILLIAM W. TRAYLOR,
JOHN W. HARVILLE.

Committee."

Now that the General Grand Chapter of the United States has formally recognized our Grand Chapter, California may obey its orders as promptly in future as they resolved to "submit" last year.

CANADA.

We have received the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Canada. The Eleventh Annual Convocation was held in Montreal, August 11, 1868, M. E. Companions T. Douglas Harrington, A. A. Stevenson, and James Seymour, Grand Council, "on the Throne." Twenty-seven Chapters were represented. Prosperity seems to reign throughout Her Majesty's dominions in Capitular Masonry. The review by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence gives an able summary of all the different State reports in America.

They say of the new Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, "We have not space to enter into the merits of the controversy, nor do we desire to interfere in what may be termed a 'family quarrel;' yet we cannot help thinking that much of the difficulty is owing to the *existence* of the General Grand Chapter." Our Canadian Companions will see that our difficulties were healed by this same General Grand Chapter, which promptly recognized us at its Triennial Session in St. Louis, September, 1868.

CONNECTICUT.

All hail, Connecticut! Her pulse beats so warmly for our Grand Chapter, that we feel the pulsation of her radial artery, and grasp the fraternal hand she tenders. The flow of kind words comes in her proceedings, sparkling with good cheer, and flowing as fearlessly as her rivers run down to the sea. Although a constituent of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, she took strong ground in favor of our Grand Chapter before the meeting of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, thus refusing to notice the edict of G. R. H. P. Lewis.

Connecticut men generally do their own *thinking*, and do not hire it done by the job. On the question of recognizing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, they exercised their own judgment and good sense, and reported the following resolutions, which have the ring of true metal in them:

"Whereas at a Convention of Delegates from all the Royal Arch Chapters in the District of Columbia, working under charters from the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, (four Chapters in all,) duly called and held in the city of Washington, on the 6th day of April, 1867, a Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia was duly organized, a Constitution adopted, and proper officers elected; and

Whereas the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia did, by a deliberate vote, consent to the separation of the said Chapters from her jurisdiction; and

Whereas, on the 23d day of May, 1867, the said Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia was duly instituted, and its officers were properly installed; now, therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Connecticut, having full confidence in the integrity and Masonic skill of the Companions who have been selected to govern and superintend the labors of the said Grand

Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, and believing the said Grand Chapter to be properly and carefully instituted, does hereby acknowledge and recognize the said Grand Chapter as the governing head of Capitular Masonry within the said District of Columbia; and we do cordially extend to the said Grand Chapter the right hand of fellowship, and receive her as a beloved member of the great American family of Royal Arch Masonry."

From the days when Nathan Hale, the Masonic martyr of the Revolution, perished for his country, regretting that he had only *one* life to give, up to the present time, the land of the Pequots, the Narragansetts, Naugatucks, and Quinipiacs, has been blessed with true and excellent Masons, whose light and learning have been felt in the nation. May the Craft be sustained in this noble old State in the future, as they have been in the past. "*Qui transtulit sustinet.*"

The ashes of so many eminent Masons now repose in this little State, that it constantly stimulates the present generation to emulate their example.

In the language of one of her own Masonic poets, now at refreshment above, we truly say,

"Hail to the land whereon we tread—
Our fondest boast,
The sepulchre of the mighty dead,
The truest hearts that ever bled,
Who sleep on glory's brightest bed,
A fearless host."

DELAWARE.

There have been no Proceedings printed for several years of this Grand Chapter, and, from such information as we can gather, there is no Grand Chapter now in existence in this little State at present.

A difficulty has arisen between certain Companions in Wilmington and the General Grand Chapter of the United States, the particulars of which are very interesting, and we would be obliged to our Companions in Wilmington to forward them to us. The action of the late G. : G. : High Priest, John L. Lewis, in this matter, is what the Craft most desire to learn.

Delaware has a larger population than the District of Columbia, and ought to have a Grand Chapter. We believe that Maryland has never attempted to exercise any control over her sister State of Delaware, or collect money as dues from her Subordinate Chapters.

GEORGIA.

The last printed Proceedings of this State received by our Grand Chapter, are those giving a report of the Convocation of the Grand Chapter at Augusta, April 24, 1867. This being previous to the institution of our Grand Chapter, nothing appears in this report concerning us. Thirty Chapters were represented at this Annual Convocation; and renewed prosperity and zeal seem to pervade Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction.

It seems to be the custom in Georgia for the G. : H. : P. : to review the Proceedings of other Grand Chapters, instead of having a Committee for this purpose, as is customary in all the other States. In his address, the G. : H. : P. :

berates several State reports, for their apparent attempt to drag politics into Masonry, and gives sound advice to all such erring Companions.

The most important act at this Convocation was the adoption of the following report:

"The committee to whom was referred the address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, at the opening of the last Annual Convocation, with instructions to report at the present Convocation, beg leave now to report:

"That, while fully concurring with the Grand High Priest in all the views taken in his address, there seems to be nothing in it requiring further definite action, except so much as relates to the reorganization of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"At the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, in 1861, the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter was ignored, and this Grand body declared independent. The reasons for that step were then fully discussed, and need not now be repeated. The action of the General Grand Chapter had, in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, rendered its jurisdiction wholly nugatory, and its existence an unnecessary expense. It had abandoned all actual authority and had become, in fact, only the means of giving to a few prominent Companions nominal rank without real power, and high sounding titles which meant nothing. There seems no longer any necessity for such an institution. If established to any purpose, an entire new constitution will be necessary, and a new jurisdiction must be established. There is not the smallest probability that the Grand Chapters of the several States will ever agree on such an arrangement. We are disposed, therefore, fully to concur with our Companions in Rhode Island, in their review, as stated to us in the address of our Grand High Priest, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

"Respectfully submitted,

"W. T. GOULD,
M. P. KELLOGG,
R. L. RODDY."

ILLINOIS.

This Grand Chapter held its 18th annual convocation at Springfield, October 4, 1867, there being eighty-seven Chapters represented. The number of new Chapters chartered and under dispensation show Capitular Masonry to be in a very flourishing condition in this young and growing State.

The accomplished Grand Secretary, E. C. Harmon G. Reynolds, who wields such a vigorous pen as editor of our favorite Masonic newspaper, *The Trowel*, presents the report on foreign correspondence, reviewing thirty Grand jurisdictions with remarkable ability.

He devotes eleven pages to a candid and fraternal review of the legality of the formation of our Grand Chapter, closing it as follows:

"Your committee are of the opinion, that three regular Chapters in any country, state, district, or territory, where a Grand Lodge exists, have an inherent right to unite and form a Grand Chapter; in Maryland there is a Grand Lodge, and another in the District. The Grand Chapter bore the name of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia. By the act of said Grand

Chapter, the connection was dissolved, and the old name is to be changed, and be known henceforth as the Grand Chapter of Maryland. *The Chapters in the District* were not under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter; and, upon the separation, were just as competent to reorganize as was Maryland; for, to some extent, both Maryland and the District are reorganized."

In the proceedings of no Grand Chapter can we find so full and complete a statement of the case presented by our Grand Chapter as comes from Illinois. Dispensing light, as Companion Reynolds does, and spreading the cement of brotherly love, as he does, with his "*Trowel*," we hail him as the Nestor of Masonry in the Great West. Every line he writes is radiant with love, brimming full of good sense. Illinois is fortunate to have such an accomplished writer to prepare her foreign correspondence.

We trust that the Royal Arch Craft of the "Garden State" may appreciate his labors, and reward him with more than that penny that belongs to laborers who come into the field at the eleventh hour.

INDIANA.

The Twenty-Second Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held May 22-23, 1867, at Indianapolis. The report before us does not state how many Chapters were represented at this Convocation. We see the familiar names of Grand Secretary Hacker and Comp. H. G. Hazelrigg, chairman of committee on jurisprudence, which remind us of the early days of Capitular Masonry in Indiana. The Grand Chapter changed its time of holding its Annual Convocations, so that the next would be held at Fort Wayne, on the third Wednesday of October, 1868. This probably accounts for our receiving no later proceedings than those of May, 1867.

Grand High Priest Thomas Newby presents the report on foreign correspondence, and seems to think that the Grand High Priest should perform this laborious task everywhere, as a part of his duties. We find only one other jurisdiction in the United States at present where this custom is still adhered to.

The most remarkable feature about this report for 1867 is the action taken in reference to the General Grand Chapter of the United States. It seems that Indiana "seceded" in 1866, and bid the General Grand Chapter an affectionate farewell. Like runaway truants from the paternal household, they asked to be taken back again, and resolved to behave better in future. In 1867 they resolved that their action in 1866 was wrong, and so they repealed it. What they will do in 1868 remains to be seen, as many leading Royal Arch Masons in that State are again in favor of "seceding."

In his annual address, Grand High Priest Newby lets his zeal for the General Grand Chapter run away with his judgment. He states the case as follows:

"I fraternally call the attention of this Grand body to its action at the last Annual Communication, in concurring in the report of a committee, and adopting a resolution, (found on page 26 of the printed Proceedings,) which indicates, that we, as a Grand body of Royal Arch Masons, have seceded, and thrown off our allegiance to the Grand Chapter of the United States.

"That action of our Grand body is not approved by all her Subordinates,

and I find some of our leading and influential Companions are not willing to submit to the taint cast upon our heretofore good and loyal standing among the entire Craft of the world.

"Such important legislation should not be passed without mature reflection, and should have been submitted in detail, with full argument on the subject, to the Subordinates, before final action.

"In a State or Territory, where a Grand Chapter has not been organized by authority of the Grand Chapter of the United States, a legal number of Royal Arch Masons petition the Grand Chapter of the United States to grant them a Dispensation, authorizing them to form a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, to be located in some designated place in said State or Territory. At the next Triennial Communication of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, the Dispensation is returned, with a request or petition from the Companions, praying for a Charter; that being granted, that Chapter is then, by order or permission of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, legally constituted.

"After the Subordinates are legally formed, by petition of three or more Subordinates, the mother Grand body issues a warrant, empowering the Subordinates to form and organize a Grand Chapter for said State or Territory. After the organization is perfected, a report is made, by sending a copy of the proceedings to the mother Grand body and all the State Grand Chapters, when all with one accord usually recognize and hail the new Grand Chapter with a fraternal welcome into the Grand Royal Arch union.

"You will at once perceive, that a Grand Chapter could not legally organize without the aid, consent, and power of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and the State Grand body would never be recognized by any legal Masonic body or intelligent Mason, if organized or framed under any other power or pretext whatever.

"The question then arising is to my mind plain: Can a *State Grand Chapter*, organized by the consent of the mother Grand body, under the Constitution and Laws of said body, by resolution, sever her connection and secede from her allegiance to the General Grand Chapter of the United States? We emphatically say, No!

"There is no provision in the Masonic Constitution permitting or confirming such action."

In reply to this last affirmation, we can only point to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter itself, and say, that there is no provision in the Constitution *against* seceding. We can point to the facts, that several of the most powerful Grand Chapters, composed of the brightest and most intellectual Masons, *have* seceded, and declare they will never return. What does Grand High Priest Newby propose to do about it? Will he dare to say, that any Royal Arch Mason, from any of these States, shall not visit a Chapter in Indiana? Will he presume that any one of them are "clandestine?"

Vermont, Rhode Island, Iowa, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, and several other States, have seceded within a few years, and they maintain exactly as good standing as the Royal Arch Masons of Indiana.

No State, as far as heard from, fails to recognize the Grand Chapters of these States, or individual rights of Royal Arch Masons in them.

The appeal which we quote below, must have produced an exudation of a lachrymose character in the Grand Chapter of Indiana:

"Now, Companions, under the above authority, we have for twenty years organized and constituted fifty-eight Chapters, who, through this Grand body, owe their powers to the General Grand Chapter, and the act on our part of severing our connection with the mother body is throwing back to her the power she gave to us to form Subordinate Chapters in our jurisdiction; and, by the same principle, our Subordinates may throw off their allegiance to us, call a convention, petition the General Grand Chapter for a Charter, declare us clandestine, make all our future acts null and void, and by our own actions hold us up to the Masonic world as a schismatic, disgraced organization. Are you prepared to be cast off by all sister Grand Chapters? Reflect for a moment upon the awful penalty you are about to inflict upon yourselves, by the sanction of the resolution passed at the last Grand Communication."

Did it ever occur to Grand High Priest Newby, that the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter forbids it to exercise any power whatever over a *Grand Chapter*? And did he ever know a Grand Chapter that did not, in its Constitution, *exercise* power over a Subordinate Chapter? Hence, the cases are totally different.

Sister Grand Chapters would never have "cast off" Indiana, because she is a sovereign jurisdiction, with no higher power to control her territory. The powerful States of Virginia and Pennsylvania, which never recognized the General Grand Chapter at all, have never experienced any such trouble as that imagined by Comp. Newby.

IOWA.

The Grand Chapter of Iowa assembled in annual Convocation, at Davenport, October 17, 1867, with Representatives from twenty-six Chapters present. Grand High Priest Hemenway presented his address, entirely filled with information and facts of a local character. Comp. Guilbert, who wields a pen and scalpel with equal facility, did not get his correspondence into the annual report, but promises to send it in a supplement. There has been an aching desire within our pericardium to receive it, but to this date no tidings can be recorded. We hope he will drop his scalpel and tenaculum, put his patient under an anesthetic, and steal time enough to send us one. As chairman of a special committee, he handles our case as follows:

"The recent imbroglío in the District of Columbia, where the General Grand High Priest has endeavored to defeat the organization of a Grand Chapter, after having formally acquiesced during the preliminary stages of the movement, and where, with a tyranny which has no parallel in the history of Royal Arch Masonry, he has attempted to set aside the formal edict of a constituted and sovereign Grand Chapter, and aids and abets a Subordinate thereof in its acts of rebellion, has still further served to convince us that the post of honor and safety for our Grand Chapter is in standing aloof from the General Grand Chapter in the future, as it has done during the past nine years. We are competent to manage our own affairs, without the assistance or supervision of any General Grand

body, whose sole use would seem to be to furnish high-sounding titles to ambitious Companions, and which has never conferred any benefits on the Royal Craft, so far as the attentive reader of Masonic history can discern. Your committee, therefore, recommend that the resolution of Companion Parvin be not adopted.

E. A. GUILBERT, P.: D.: H.: P.:
W. E. WOODWARD, P.: G.: H.: P.:"

KANSAS.

We have received no official communication from this Grand Chapter, nor any printed Proceedings whatever, but learn through the Proceedings of other Grand Chapters that she has recognized the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

We know there are warm hearts in Kansas beating for Capitular Masonry, and tender them our thanks for these kind acts, and shall welcome them with a true, fraternal grip, if they ever visit the national capital.

KENTUCKY.

This Grand Chapter held its Annual Convocation, at Louisville, October 21, 22, 23, 1867, and October 19, 1868. We have been favored with several communications from her Grand Secretary. We have received a copy of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter for 1868. But we have been aware of the strong sympathy felt by Kentucky Companions for us, and we feel under deep obligations to them for such support in the dark and trying days when we were struggling for what we knew to be right.

At the Annual Convocation the following resolutions were passed:

"Whereas, since the last Communication of the Grand Chapter, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia has been formed and duly installed by our distinguished and most excellent Comp. Albert G. Mackey, in strict accordance with the laws and usages of our order; therefore—

"Be it resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Kentucky tender their congratulations to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and hereby accept said Grand Chapter as an important acquisition to Capitular Masonry in this country."

We bow to this kind salutation, and cross palms with our chivalric Companions of Kentucky, trusting that the links in the chain of friendship will never be broken.

LOUISIANA.

The Twenty-First Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, was held at New Orleans, February 11, 1868, twenty Chapters answering to roll-call, and two entering subsequently. Capitular Masonry seems to be in a more flourishing condition in this State than in any part of the southwest.

Grand High Priest Buckley's address is filled with local matters, showing that both harmony and prosperity prevail among the Royal Arch Craft.

Comp. Wm. W. Leake presented the report on foreign correspondence, which is characterized with both ability and fraternal courtesy.

He opens his review with a searching analysis of the legality of the formation of our Grand Chapter, and commences as follows:

"DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—It is with the deepest sorrow and sympathy that we have read the account of the troubles of our Companions in this jurisdiction. Although we are ready to acknowledge that 'the king can do no wrong,' and to accord to Comp. Lewis, as a man and as M.: E.: G.: Grand High Priest, the nearest approximation to infallibility, yet, after a careful perusal of this unhappy controversy, we must urge a respectful dissent to his opinion as to the legitimate existence of this Grand Chapter, and our disapproval of the course he has thought proper to pursue towards it."

After entering into a full consideration of all the issues pending, as well as those questioned when our Grand Chapter was formed, he closes his report with the following conclusion, so clear that no sane man could question it:

"This attempt to form a Grand Chapter was made with the full consent and approval of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, of which it then formed a part. This thing was not done in a corner. It had the one great common object in view, the furtherance of the benevolent designs of Masonry. It was organized, or at least it was supposed to be organized, within the knowledge of the M.: E.: G.: Grand High Priest, and under the direction and personal supervision of M.: E.: Comp. Mackey, and the work of the General Grand Chapter exemplified by him for their guidance and instruction; and these Companions had a right to suppose that they were a regularly-constituted body, and as such they were entitled to some consideration from M.: E.: Comp. Lewis. Instead of this, we find no communication between them, no intimations that they had exceeded their authority; but, without any warning or any official notice to them, except in public newspapers, they are pronounced 'clandestine,' and by one fell swoop are put out of the pale of the brotherhood. This does not accord with our notions of Masonic propriety and of the exercise of official authority.

"We regret that our limited space will not warrant a full discussion of this important subject. It is well known that the existence of the General Grand Chapter has always been considered by many eminent Masons of doubtful propriety and necessity, and those who advocate its continuance watch with jealous eye every exercise of authority by the General Grand officers touching the interest of the Grand Chapters under its jurisdiction.

"As we are called on to express our opinion, we do so with the greatest deference to those in authority, and with the sole object of securing to this Grand Chapter its legal rights. We regret that we cannot give our reasons at length, but must content ourselves by saying, in our opinion the action of the M.: E.: G.: Grand High Priest is an unwarranted assumption of authority, and is an act of great injustice to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, or at least to the Companions composing that Grand Chapter."

The cane-brakes and bayous of Louisiana echo the same sentiments that come from the pine-forests of Maine and Wisconsin. From the rugged hillsides of New England to the tropical luxuriance of Louisiana, they tell the same story in a few brief words: that a great wrong has been committed, and injustice done to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

For the manly words, so full of meaning and integrity, we thank Comp.

Leake; and if he ever visits the nation's capital, we hope to clasp his hand, show him our vigorous Chapters and in true Masonic style sit down with him and "smoke the pipe of peace" around our council-fires burning here so brightly.

MAINE.

This Grand Chapter held its Annual Convocation at Portland, May 4, 1868, twenty-five Chapters being represented. Grand High Priest Drummond presented an address of remarkable ability and usefulness, and also signed "Instead of Committee on Foreign Correspondence." He reviews the formation of our Grand Chapter with fairness and discrimination, and pleads our case as well as we could do ourselves. But he advised obeying G. T. High Priest Lewis's edict, which he thinks is wrong; and, instead of squarely recognizing us, as Wisconsin, Ohio, and other constituents of the General Grand Chapter did, he advises against it, and reported the following resolutions:

"IN GRAND CHAPTER OF MAINE,

"May 6, 1868.

"The Special Committee to which was referred so much of the address of the Grand High Priest and of the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence as relates to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Chapter that the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States ought, at its next session, to recognize the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia as a regular body, having exclusive jurisdiction in the Federal District, subject only to the Constitution and laws of said General Grand Chapter.

"*Resolved*, That we fraternally exhort all the Masons of the District of Columbia to lay aside all "private piques and quarrels," to reconcile their differences, and to sacrifice their animosities upon the altar of Masonry, that through them it may not become a by-word and reproach among the people; assuring them that we shall hail with joy the day when we shall be permitted again to greet them under the Royal Arch.

"JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
JOHN W. BALLOU,
JOS. PEARSON GILL,
Committee."

Report accepted, and resolutions adopted.

Companion Drummond seems fearful that the conflict for right and justice, in establishing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, will be the means of bursting up the General Grand Chapter of the United States, for which he is a strong advocate. He speaks frankly on this question as follows:

"The General Grand Chapter will meet in St. Louis, next September. It will be the turning point in its history. It will prepare the way either for its speedy dissolution, or for a career of prosperity and usefulness. It is recognized by the Grand Chapters of Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, &c., Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Maine—*twenty-three* in all; Virginia,

Pennsylvania, and Florida were never represented in it; Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas "seceded" from it when the war commenced; Rhode Island says it was dissolved by not meeting in 1862; Iowa, Vermont, and Kentucky formerly acknowledged it, but now deny its authority. In my humble judgment, it should do one of two things: either dissolve, or maintain its authority; it should be *in reality* either something or nothing. The recent developments in the District of Columbia show what a supreme tribunal, with courage enough to enforce its decisions, may do, and how much of dissension and controversy may be saved by it. You will determine whether you will give your Representatives any instructions in reference to it."

MARYLAND.

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia have read, with pain and regret, a report signed by "E. L. Stevens, for Committee on Correspondence," in a pamphlet purporting to be the "Proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Maryland AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA."

That portion of the report headed "District of Columbia," can be productive of no injury in this jurisdiction, or elsewhere in the Masonic world, where the circumstances under which it was written are well known; but in distant States it may possibly mislead those excellent Companions who cherish the idea that all Masons are as spotless in their Masonic reputation and character as themselves.

The indignation and scorn with which such a report has been received over the country can readily be imagined, by referring to the contents of the report itself, where the attempt is made to cast reproach upon the reputation of prominent Royal Arch Masons, distinguished as such before Comp. Stevens ever knelt before the altar of Free Masonry.

The language used in that part of the report is of such a character, that it places it outside the pale of Masonic charity and courtesy, and it would be passed by with silent contempt if it did not misrepresent facts to such a degree, that it might mislead those in distant States, not acquainted with the questions at issue.

Comp. Ezra L. Stevens, having been recently expelled from all the rights and privileges of R. A. Masonry, should forever hold his peace, and be content to share the odium always attached to the name of an expelled Mason. The fact of his expulsion should have proper consideration among all those who have taken pains to read the report he has sent all over the United States. He was once a Royal Arch Mason in good standing in Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 3, of this city, but was expelled therefrom.

When the time for separation came, and Maryland and the District of Columbia parted in peace, each to be separate Grand Chapters, Comp. Stevens begged the privilege in the Grand Chapter of offering the resolution in favor of a separation, which was allowed him, and he offered this resolution which separated these jurisdictions, after first submitting it to the approval of Grand Master Whiting.

By this voluntary act, it will be seen that he was fully committed in favor of the G. C., and everywhere proclaimed the views he entertained, that the separation was legally made. When the officers of the G. C. were elected,

Comp. Stevens was chosen to fill *no office* in the G. : C. : . His interest in it ceased at once, although he subsequently visited it, and took part in its deliberations, and looked on it with that peculiar admiration that most people view things beyond their reach. With that remarkable degree of charity for which Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia have always been noted, Comp. Stevens was excused for these idiosyncracies, until they generated misrepresentations which finally ripened into the crime against Masonry for which he was afterward expelled.

We loved our Companion while we held him within the fraternal folds of Masonry, but became obliged to expel him to protect the institution which we loved more. As Brutus loved Cæsar not *less*, but Rome *more*, so we loved an erring Companion not less, but Free Masonry *more*. *Omnia vincit amor et necessitas non habet legem.*

This report opens with a statement that the Convention of all the Chapters in the city assembled in March, 1867, to form a Grand Chapter that evening. They assembled for no such purpose; but simply to take action in reference to such proposed Grand Chapter, and counsel together with reference to the best method of establishing it.

Comp. Stevens contends that this Convention, in which he spoke and took an active part, was illegal. His authority would seem to be Comp. James G. Smith, then G. : High Priest, but now suspended from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry.

Comp. James G. Smith was not present at this Convention, but was represented there by the late lamented Grand Master Geo. C. Whiting, who stated that Comp. Smith desired him to attend the Convention, and promised to call the Grand Chapter together in ten days, and use his influence to procure a separation from Maryland, if the Companions would desist from making further attempts to bring about that result that night. This is the first instance on record where a Grand High Priest was represented in what he called an illegal Masonic meeting, and begged for mercy at its hands.

Although this report states that Comp. Whiting promised at the Convocation of the G. : C. : to ask the consent of one of the first four grand officers of the G. : G. : Chapter of the United States, yet he made no such promise at that or any future time. He subsequently wrote, on his own individual responsibility, merely to inquire of M. : E. : Jno. L. Lewis, General Grand High Priest, what his opinion was respecting this question, and whether consent was necessary, and received the reply by telegraph, "Consent probably unnecessary; hereby given if it is." He also wrote a letter, more fully giving his reasons, and squarely giving his consent to the formation of the Grand Chapter here, which has been heretofore published.

The remarkable unanimity of the G. : C. : of Maryland, in giving consent for the formation of the G. : C. : of the District of Columbia, is well known. After having voted that we should form a Grand Chapter, she had no more to do with us than with any other Grand body. She could not withdraw her consent after our G. : C. : was formed, any more than fond parents, after giving their consent, can withdraw the same after the marriage ceremonies are performed, and the world has recognized the formation of a new family.

The lame apology of Comp. Stevens for the G. C. of Maryland taking such a step is characteristic. Such action has already made the G. C. of Maryland a theme for ridicule all over the Masonic world. Reason must have left her throne where such counsels prevail. The Darwinian theory, that man sprung from brute creation, has some foundation to rest upon, when viewed in this connection. The action before us shows that the *genus homo* in Maryland is retrograding in accordance with the Darwinian theory.

"Ill fares that land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

The statement of Comp. Stevens, that the late Grand Master Whiting was elected President of the Convention to form a G. C., and was *not* present, is totally false.

The statement that Potomac Chapter withdrew from the *first* Convention to form a G. C. is also totally false, for none from that Chapter were present. They participated in the subsequent Convention, in good faith, and were, of course, bound in honor by its action.

The "poor courtesy" referred to in the report as being extended to Comp. James G. Smith was the same as that given to other P. H. Priests. The sorrow exhibited by Comp. Stevens for this P. H. P. in particular is none the less remarkable because it comes from an inexhaustible fountain. Because Comp. Smith was elected to no office in the new Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, he should not have felt that Masons, like republics, are ungrateful.

The mental calibre and Masonic acquirements of Masons are always best judged in the community in which they reside.

The following sentence from the report will be news to the Companions in the District of Columbia, and, as a work of fiction and imagination, is too good to be lost. Speaking of the installation ceremonies, he says: "The newly-installed G. H. P. read a very lengthy address to a mixed audience of over a thousand people; and we venture the assertion, that no Masonic document ever made its appearance in the form of an address which abounds so much with error, sophistry, unkind, unMasonic, and uncharitable feeling as that. It exhibits a spirit of unfriendliness and animosity toward this Grand body, and some of those who have shared your entire confidence, and upon whom you have bestowed your highest honors, totally unjust and unwarranted. It displays toward such, under all circumstances attending the separation, a spirit of ingratitude, which every honorable man and every true Mason must condemn. It impugns the motives of Companions with a recklessness never before witnessed in any Masonic body and very seldom even in the political arena."

There is not a word of truth in any of these statements, manufactured for a foreign market, and which Comp. Stevens would not dare to make in Washington. The vindictive spirit exhibited in these sentences is a fair sample of that pervading the whole report. Such language could never come from a pure Masonic heart.

The largest procession of Masons ever seen in Washington honored the occasion of the installation ceremonies. The inaugural ceremonies at Wall's Opera House, where nearly two thousand Masons looked on with admiration, was the

most brilliant Masonic occasion ever seen in the national capital. The address of G.·. H.·. P.·. Holmead was highly complimented by eminent Masons present, and so great was the desire among Masons unable to get into the crowded house, to read it, that it was published by our daily papers. The Royal Arch Craft were so much pleased with the talented address of G.·. H.·. P.·. Holmead, that they *unanimously* re-elected him G.·. H.·. P.·. at the Annual Convocation in November, 1867, thus endorsing the address and the sentiments contained in it.

The statement that M.·. E.·. Jno. L. Lewis, G.·. G.·. H.·. P.·., sent his consent to form the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, "under an entire misapprehension of the facts in the case," is entirely without foundation.

Comp. Whiting wrote a long letter to M.·. E.·. Comp. Lewis, giving him a complete synopsis of all the facts as they had occurred, and no man of intelligence could possibly misunderstand the clear case and simple sentences that our Grand Master wrote. M.·. E.·. Comp. Lewis knew everything that had transpired here, and gave his consent for the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia with a full knowledge of the facts. His subsequent indictment by the Masonic world for violating the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, which gives said body no power over State Grand Chapters whatever, and which he had sworn to support, has brought a verdict in favor of our Grand Chapter from different State Grand Chapters as fast as they held their Annual Convocations. As several Grand Chapters, in different parts of the United States, held their Annual Convocations, and extended to our new Grand Chapter the right hand of fellowship, and a true Masonic welcome among the Grand Chapters of the United States, the handful of anti-Grand Chapter Masons in the District of Columbia were dissatisfied with the verdict of the Masonic world against them, and appealed to that appellate tribunal higher than Royal Arch Masonry—the Order of Knighthood. After a careful analysis of the condition—a review of the legal status, and a complete statement of all the facts in the case—Most Eminent H. L. Palmer, Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States, decided that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia *was legally formed*, and was the *only body* in Royal Arch Masonry in the District of Columbia that Knights Templar would be allowed to recognize.

All Knights Templar not affiliated to Chapters in the District of Columbia, or not recognizing the authority of the Grand Chapter, had their names erased from the rolls in both Commanderies.

The highest Masonic authority in the United States having triumphantly vindicated the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, the question is settled forever. All that Maryland has to do now, is to follow in the wake, and swim with the current. The path of duty is plain. It leads to honor and to success. Without pretending to assume jurisdiction over territory she can never control, and becoming the laughing-stock of the Masonic world, let her own that she has been false to her Masonic obligations to us, and we will freely forgive her. But if she employs an expelled Mason to write her reports on foreign correspondence again, she will find it to be too much like

"Dropping buckets into empty wells,
And growing old in drawing nothing up."

Our Companions in Maryland have a common interest with us. We have met together in all Masonic deliberations for many years, and grown up together in the same Masonic household. We have learned to love and respect each other. Can these mystic ties be broken now?

"With malice toward none, with charity for all," let us work fraternally together. Let us "meet on the level and part on the square," as in days of yore. Washington and Baltimore are just forty miles apart; let us travel that forty miles on frozen ground, or over a rough and rugged road, to serve each other. Many of us were born on the soil of Maryland, and still cling to "Maryland, *my* Maryland," as the child clings to its mother.

There is a Grand Chapter above, where the Grand High Priest forever reigns, forever presides, to which we are all hastening. Let us so conduct ourselves that when the step falters, and the eye grows dim—the "silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl is broken"—we shall be welcomed in that temple not made with hands, "well done, thou good and faithful servants."

NOTE.—I think the Committee on Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, for the year 1867, were Companions Stevens, McJilton, and myself.

When the separation of the Grand Chapters was *unanimously* agreed to, and I became legally, masonically, and properly, a member of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, I regarded my connection with the Grand Chapter of Maryland as at an end, and should as soon have attempted to go into the Grand Chapter of New York and submitted a report on correspondence, as to have submitted one to the Grand Chapter of Maryland. Comp. Stevens never consulted with me relative to his report, or intimated that he intended to make one, so that his signature, "for the committee," has no relation to me.

B. B. FRENCH.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The stated Convocations of this Grand Chapter seem to be held quarterly at present.

Capitular Masonry seems to be flourishing to a wonderful degree in the "Old Bay State." New Chapters are constantly being formed, and old ones have more work than they ought to do.

The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia has many warm friends in the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts; but, being under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, there has been a failure up to this date to express their honest convictions in regard to our Grand Chapter. As the committee on correspondence say in their report, "we suppose we must wait the decision of the General Grand Chapter." As this decision has now been given, Massachusetts can fire her rifled gun she has had loaded so long, without any danger of killing any lame ducks within range.

NEBRASKA.

We have from the sun-set side of the Mississippi and Missouri a pamphlet, bearing the glad tidings, that the infant State of Nebraska has formed a Grand

Chapter. It seems that the three Chapters, bearing Charters from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, formed a Convention for organization March 19, 1867, under authority of Deputy General Grand High Priest Buck, of Illinois. Their formation was exactly the same as that adopted by the District of Columbia; the marked difference being, that Nebraska derived her Charters from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and we did not. Their first Annual Convocation took place at Omaha, June 17, 1867. As Nebraska formed her Grand Chapter March 19, 1867, she out ranks us two months in seniority. So we take our sister by the hand, salute her three times three, and begin to tread the rugged path of life together. Let it be remembered, that Nebraska and the District of Columbia are twin sisters.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

We have received a volume containing five hundred and nineteen pages from the venerable Grand Secretary, embracing the Proceedings for 1866-7.

From this report, it seems that the Annual Convocation for 1867 was held June 11, at Concord, ten Chapters being represented. The unusual prosperity of the Royal Arch Craft of the "Old Granite State" during the past year has never been equalled.

Dr. Thomas E Hatch, M. E. G. H. P., delivered an excellent address, reviewing the condition of Capitular Masonry in the State. This being three weeks after the establishment of our Grand Chapter, no printed report of its organization had then been received, and, of course no action could be taken in the matter.

The letters received here from Judge Chase, the eminent and venerable Grand Secretary, show conclusively the sentiment of New Hampshire.

The senior members of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, having been first brought to light in Masonry in the "old Granite State," feel great interest in the opinions and judgment of the Nestor of Freemasonry in this State. They extend to him the salutations and courtesies so eminently due for his valuable services to the Craft for almost half a century, and fervently pray that many years may be vouchsafed to him for future usefulness.

The careful preparation of his report on foreign correspondence shows that his ripe old age has neither abated his zeal nor shaken his judgment.

In his review of the Proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Chapters, he shows a fraternal spirit and true Masonic devotion, that many younger Masons would do well to emulate.

NEW YORK.

The Grand Chapter of New York held its Seventy-First Annual Convocation at Albany, February 4, 1868, with a representation from one hundred and twenty-four Chapters.

The circulars, edicts, and Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia were read, and referred to a special committee of five, which committee subsequently presented the following report:

"To the Grand Chapter of the State of New York:

"The committee on the memorial of the body claiming to be the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia respectfully report, that they have given the subject committed to them, and the documents relating to it, that careful and attentive consideration which respect for the memorialists and for the other parties concerned demands. They regret that in the limited time allotted to them, they are unable to present the subject in the light of argument, for the documents before them give but one side of the case; enough, however, has been presented to them to justify the conclusion, that this Grand Chapter should not recognize the body whose claims have been presented to their notice as a Grand Chapter, and to convince your committee that the General Grand High Priest was justified in declaring that its organization was irregular.

"The committee might content themselves with the position, that it is not their province to challenge an act of the General Grand High Priest until it had been officially reported to and acted upon by the General Grand Chapter; but they will not assume such a position, preferring to meet the question as it is presented to us by the memorialists.

"Our high respect for the M. E. General Grand High Priest, our estimation of his character for integrity and judgment, which lead us to believe that he was not influenced by passion or prejudice, and the fact that he has given the matter of Masonic jurisprudence his attention and research in the various bodies for many years, would cause us to hesitate in challenging his action, entirely aside from his official position as General Grand High Priest. But the true question presented is, had the General Grand Chapter jurisdiction over the territory of the District of Columbia? and, in the decision of that question, the most vital interests of the General Grand Chapter are concerned. Such jurisdiction is claimed for it by the General Grand High Priest; and what confirms our decision upon this subject is, that the Grand Chapter of Maryland, the only other body which could have claimed such jurisdiction, distinctly and unhesitatingly affirms his position.

"We subjoin the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter, believing that the organization of the body claiming to be the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was irregular, decline to recognize it as a Grand Chapter.

"Fraternally submitted,

CLINTON F. PAIGE,
D. A. OGDEN,
DANIEL SICKLES,
J. R. ANDERSON,
WM. DIXON.

Committee."

We expected New York would sustain General Grand High Priest Lewis in his conduct towards us, as a matter of course. But now that General Grand High Priest Lewis recommended our recognition at St. Louis, last September, in the General Grand Chapter, we hope that New York will appoint this same committee of five to report on our recognition, on account of the "high respect entertained for our M. E. General Grand High Priest."

OHIO.

We regret exceedingly that the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Ohio have never been received by the committee, nor have they been able to secure a copy by sending to Ohio Companions.

The first to grasp us by the hand, after the formation of our Grand Chapter, was the noble Grand Chapter of Ohio.

The fraternal courtesy and warm welcome extended to our Grand Chapter when recognized so early by our Ohio Companions, fills our hearts to overflowing.

To Grand High Priest George Rex, Grand Secretary John D. Caldwell, and Comp. Howard Matthews, chairman of committee on foreign correspondence, we owe a debt of gratitude we can never repay. With hearts in our hands we tender them to our loved Companions, and ask that the friendship formed between Ohio and the District of Columbia shall never be broken.

PENNSYLVANIA.

We have received an abstract of the Proceedings of this Grand Chapter for the years 1865, 1867, and 1868.

The Grand Chapter meets quarterly, and transacts much important business. It has never recognized the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and much of its foreign correspondence relates to a defence of its position on this question. The well-known character of Mark Lodges and R. A. Chapters, in Pennsylvania, makes this State work different from that of any other in the nation.

After receiving the Proceedings and installation of officers of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, our recognition as a Grand Chapter was referred to the Grand Officers and committee on correspondence, to report at a subsequent Convocation. We have no information whether this committee has reported, and if so, the action recommended.

RHODE ISLAND.

The Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island have been received for the years 1861, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868. At their annual Convocation, at Providence, March 10, 1868, Grand High Priest Doyle says: "The organization of a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia has led to much controversy among the Craft, in consequence of the interference of the officers of the so-called General Grand Chapter of the United States, in attempting to sustain a Subordinate Chapter of the District in its rebellion against the new Grand Chapter." The question of recognition was referred to a committee, that subsequently reported in favor of our new Grand Chapter, and ordered the Grand High Priest to extend to us the right hand of fellowship.

The land of "Roger Williams" and "Providence Plantations" thus wheels into line with her sister States. We extend to her a welcome greeting.

The most important act done by this Grand Chapter was the passage of the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter has learned with regret of the intention

to organize a General Grand Chapter of the United States, and in declining to participate in such formation, must also most emphatically protest against it.

"Resolved, That while this Grand Chapter admits that the General Grand Chapter once existing conferred a benefit upon the weak and struggling bodies then but just entering upon their work, yet the present healthful existence, correct Masonic tone, and the general harmony found among all the Grand Chapters, is such, that its continued existence cannot, in our judgment, subserve the best good of our Fraternity.

"Resolved, That in the judgement of this Grand Chapter, the late General Grand Chapter of the United States dates its decline and complete dissolution from its meeting in Chicago, in 1859; and that neither the prosperity or utility of Royal Arch Masonry require that it should be resuscitated.

"Resolved, That this Grand body, since the dissolution of the late General Grand Chapter, has, neither by itself or its subordinates, in its work, or in any manner whatsoever, recognized the existence of a General body, and has found no difficulty arising therefrom; and as there appears to be no more necessity for a General Grand Chapter than for a General Grand Lodge, therefore this Grand Chapter must and does most respectfully, but earnestly, protest alike against the formation of a new, as against the resuscitation of the old and disbanded organization once known as the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"Resolved, That the R. E. Grand Secretary be, and he is hereby, directed to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to each Grand Chapter in correspondence with this body, and also to M. E. Albert G. Mackey, late G. G. High Priest of the United States, and to R. E. John D. Caldwell, Acting G. G. Secretary of the late General Grand Chapter of the United States.

TEXAS.

The Nineteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Texas was held at Houston, June 8, 1868, forty-two Chapters answering the call for representation. Considerable apathy is reported in the Royal Arch Craft, on account of impoverishment, growing out of the late war. The Grand High Priest says, in his address in reference to our new Grand Chapter, "I am unable to perceive that this Grand Chapter has any interest in the question, as we are not subordinate to the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

A fair and candid statement of our case is made by Comp. Richardson, chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence, in his report, and action of the Grand Chapter recommended.

Our Companions on the Rio Grande have our hearty thanks for their kind acts toward us, and we shall always greet them gladly on the banks of the Potomac.

VERMONT.

The Grand Chapter held its Annual Convocation at Vergennes, October 2, 1867, with nineteen Chapters being represented. The Grand High Priest announced, in his address, that at no time, since the re-organization of the Grand Chapter in 1849, has there been so much activity and interest in Capitalar

Masonry. Six Dispensations were granted in 1867, and new Chapters started under favorable circumstances.

In reviewing the formation of our new Grand Chapter, Grand High Priest Dana makes several mistakes, which doubtless arose from want of information. He has visited our Chapters here in Washington frequently the past year, and seen the work conferred, and ought to have become more familiar with the facts respecting the organization and subsequent history of our Grand Chapter. The committee reported against adopting the views of the G. H. P. in reference to the District of Columbia.

VIRGINIA.

The last printed Proceedings of this ancient Grand Chapter seem to be those of 1866, which we have received. They contain a review of the different States, classified as "Shadows" and "Light," and written with remarkable ability. We regret to see so many Chapters in the State lying dormant, from which no returns have been received for several years. These Chapters seem to be broken up and impoverished by the late war. We trust they will recover their former vigor, and we shall hear of their prosperity as in former days. As this Annual Convocation occurred December 13, 1866, prior to the formation of our Grand Chapter, our sister across the Potomac says nothing about us.

Virginia never recognized the General Grand Chapter of the United States, nor any edicts of G. H. High Priest, John L. Lewis.

Grand High Priest George W. Dame made an excellent address, in which he argued that the standard of Royal Arch Masonry is entirely too low, and needs to be raised to a more exalted and honorary position.

WISCONSIN.

The Grand Chapter assembled in Convocation, at its Annual Session, at Milwaukee, February 5, 1868, thirty-three Chapters being represented.

The report of the committee on foreign correspondence, from the pen of Comp. Alvin B. Alden, gives a review of twenty-four States in a very able manner. He devotes four pages to the District of Columbia, giving a fair, impartial statement of the formation of our Grand Chapter, and its subsequent difficulties. Perhaps Comp. Alden and P. H. P. Henry L. Palmer are as thoroughly acquainted with our case as any Companions in the country outside this District.

This report takes strong ground in favor of the legality of the formation of our Grand Chapter, closing with the following recommendation to the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin:

"Your committee are clearly of the opinion, that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was regularly and legally organized, and that when such organization was once perfected she had, and still has, full, complete, and exclusive jurisdiction over all Chapters organized, or to be organized, within its jurisdictional limits; and that any interference therewith or therein, by any person, in any capacity, unless authorized by said Grand Chapter, is without the slightest warrant of authority under the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, or the general usages of Royal Arch Masonry."

The whole question was referred to a special committee, and the following resolution was offered by the committee, and adopted:

"Resolved, That so much of the report of the committee on foreign correspondence as relates to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is specially approved, and is adopted as expressing the views of this Grand Chapter."

All of which is fraternally submitted.

B. B. FRENCH,
JNO. EDW. MASON,
L. G. STEPHENS.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, through Companion N. P. Chipman, submitted the following report, which was read, ordered to be spread upon the minutes, and the resolutions attached thereto adopted.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest,

Officers and Companions, of the Grand Chapter D. C.

The following case has been submitted to your committee for report and opinion. The facts necessary to an understanding of the question presented appear in a communication from the Secretary of Lafayette Royal Arch Chapter of this jurisdiction, whence the matter is brought before the Grand Chapter for action, and cannot be better stated than in his language, as follows:

"Brother Israel P. Libby, of Federal Lodge, No. 1, who has petitioned for the Degrees conferred by this Chapter, has lost the second and third fingers of the right-hand, leaving the thumb and index-finger complete, and most of the fourth finger. With this hand he can give all the signs recognized in the Chapter, and perform all the work that Royal Arch Masonry requires. With this same hand he labors at his occupation as a watch-maker, which, of course, requires the most intricate muscular movements and developments."

The letter also bears testimony to the spotless integrity of the applicant; which, however, has nothing to do with the precise question submitted.

It further appears, from the letter referred to, that Brother Libby has been once rejected by another Chapter, solely on the ground that he was physically disabled, in the particulars described, and that his case is now before Lafayette Chapter; but that the ballot is suspended until the views of the Grand Chapter can be had.

If your committee are to understand that the physical qualifications of Brother Libby to receive the Royal Arch Degrees is the only question embraced in the reference, there can, in their opinion, be but little difficulty in arriving at a decision.

The statement of facts conceded, there can be no sound Masonic objection interposed to his admission. Both reason and precedent concur in this view.

Your committee infer, however, that a somewhat broader and more comprehensive opinion is desired, upon the general subject of physical disqualification, than is involved in the particular case submitted. In response to this desire, your committee will state, briefly as possible, the result of their deliberations.

A Freemason is defined by Webster to be "one of an ancient and secret asso-

ciation or fraternity, said to have been at first composed of masons and builders in stone, but now consisting of persons who are united for social enjoyment and mutual assistance."

While it may not seem the highest authority to cite a definition given by the vulgar and profane, Masonically speaking, yet it will be admitted that no one can define in fewer words what a Freemason is than is here done. In the ancient of days masonry was operative chiefly, and had for its objects the education and protection of operative masons, not entirely dissimilar, except that it was upon a higher and more perfect system, from labor-protecting societies of this day. Then one of the first qualifications was a perfect physical development and a high cultivation in mechanical arts. Of the long list of illustrious names in primitive masonry, we do not find, with few exceptions, that our patrons were distinguished so much for learning as skill; strength of arm went further than strength of mind; muscle than brains.

Speculative Masonry inaugurated a new era. Operative masonry was lost many years, and was revived and handed down to us in symbols. Indeed, operative and speculative Masonry are so widely severed historically, that we connect the one with the other only by tradition.

Masonry of to-day is as much higher than masonry of antiquity as mental development is higher than physical. Masonry, as originally divided into three divisions: entered apprentice, fellow-craft, and master mason, indicated by the very titles which distinguished the classes that qualifications differing entirely from those now required were made the requisites to advancement: service of years was required in the first degree before an entered apprentice could be admitted a fellow-craft. The most careless observer of Masonry amongst us must see how greatly we differ in theory and practice from our ancient brethren. There was reason in the rule of ancient masonry, but that reason has failed so far as we are concerned, and the rule goes with it. Our obligations, our monitors, our ritual and traditions, and the lights thrown upon our science, from whatever source, all serve to point out the distinguishing features of speculative or symbolic Masonry from masonry in the rough ashlar, as it was when only operative.

Your committee would not enter largely into a discussion of the question, yet they must be indulged in a few illustrations of their meaning.

When the Master Mason is clothed and instructed as to the implements pertaining to his rank, he is informed that all the implements known to the three degrees are his, but more especially the *trowel*. He is informed that it is an instrument made use of by *operative* Masons to spread the cement which unites a building into one common mass; but the charge continues, *we, as Free and Accepted Masons*, (not as operative masons,) are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of *spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection*, that cement which unites us into one sacred band or society of friends and brothers. He is not instructed in the genius and spirit of Free Masonry who cannot see how different from and more exalted is our profession, as shown in this charge, than the masonry from which we are distinguished. *Our trowel* is a symbol, nothing more; and as such can be used with or without a perfect hand, leg, or body, provided the *heart* is sound.

In the Mark Master's Degree we are given the *chisel and mallet*, and are instructed as to their *moral* teachings, not how to use them physically; and we are further told that it is more particularly our duty to conduct ourselves so as to stand the test of the Grand Overseer's square, that *we*, not our *work*, may be found fit for the spiritual temple.

The Past Master is solemnly reminded that the time is coming when all distinctions shall cease but those of goodness, and in the charge a beautiful code of morals is condensed, and its observance enjoined, but of which a most skillful operative mason might be utterly ignorant.

The admonitions to rectitude of conduct, and the like teachings, are intensified as we learn the duties of the two succeeding degrees, and finally, the exalted Royal Arch Mason is reminded that no one could gain admission into so distinguishing a position without being forcibly struck with the important *lessons* taught in preceding degrees, and again is he reminded that the great duty before us is to promote each other's welfare, correct each other's failings by advice, admonition, and reproof; and, apparently, having in view this very question as to whom we should recommend for these high Degrees, the newly-made Companion is admonished to recommend none for whom he cannot freely vouch, and whom he does not firmly believe will conform to the *principles* of our Order, and fulfill the *obligations* of a *Royal Arch Mason*.

The *principles* of our Order, we have seen, do not consist in actually tracing designs on the trestle-board, polishing the ashlar, spreading the cement, or laying the stones of a veritable building. The practice of our *principles* does not depend on a sound body, the avoirdupois of the Companion, or strength of his muscle. And it is believed that in no one of the degrees are physical qualifications made the slightest test of a Companion's ability to fulfill the *obligations*.

At no stage of the ceremony is the examining committee called upon to subject the candidate to any such test. Furthermore, if it is our duty to reject upon this ground, it is our duty to make this examination, and if made, by what rule are we to be guided? Is the candidate who has lost a finger to be rejected, and the candidate who is dying with consumption admitted? Will a defective eye, a stiff joint, a club foot, disqualify; while other and greater, though less perceivable, disabilities qualify? Are we a society of Apollos, and made up of form and figure? If so, an important and necessary appendage to the Order is an examining board of surgeons.

Your committee cannot take so narrow a view of our institution. We believe Free Masonry looks to the *moral* man, and that our principles can be illustrated by the moral man only.

While your committee believe these general views to be correct, they do not find that it relieves the question of all difficulty. While we should admit only the true and the good, it does not follow that we should admit all who are true and good. We should take no step which would lead to confusion in the Craft; which would leave our traditions, our work, and symbols in the possession of those only who, from physical defects, could not transmit them. For example, it would be neither beneficial to the candidate nor to our Craft to admit him to the degrees of Masonry if he were blind, or deaf, or so crippled that he had to be carried on a litter.

On the other hand, it would be equally suicidal to our Order if a slight physical defect should be held to disqualify.

Between these two extremes we are left a wide range, and where to establish the line is easily seen to be difficult.

There is one rule which is thought to be proper and just: A candidate for the Chapter Degrees should not be subjected to so severe a test, as to physical qualifications, as a candidate to the first Degrees.

A Master Mason belongs to the Masonic family, and we should have a broader charity for him whose misfortunes perhaps have rendered him less a perfect man physically, but have left his morals unsullied, or possibly brightened by the chastening-rod. In army life we see this principle illustrated. The recruit is rejected because of a hundred different defects of the body, many of them slight; but once a soldier, the loss of an arm or leg does not disqualify him for the higher grades, and in all countries many of the brightest ornaments of army and navy service are those who would be ineligible to be received as recruits.

Another safe and just rule is, to receive those who are shown to be capable of performing the work, whatever their physical defects.

Your committee have endeavored to examine into the practice and precedents established by other jurisdictions, but without being able to arrive at any established rules. There is no Masonic law on the subject, and in all cases the Chapters adopt their own course, and establish their own rules. We cite, however, such action elsewhere as we have been able to find.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama, at its Fortieth Annual Convocation, December 4, 1866, adopted the following from the committee on jurisprudence:

"A member who has been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, according to the ancient land-marks, and who, in every respect, was qualified for exaltation, should not be debarred from the Degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, simply because he has been providentially afflicted, such affliction having been in nowise brought about by his misconduct.

"Again, a brother was balloted for and accepted for exaltation; but before he could receive the Degrees was called off upon duty, and was thus prevented from receiving them. During this necessary absence, he had the misfortune to lose one of his arms in battle.

"On his return home, he still desires the Degrees, being in every respect worthy. I unhesitatingly (continues the report of the chairman) recommend that the Chapter exalt him, or, in the event they refuse, that they recommend him to some other Chapter for exaltation. It is just such a case as peculiarly commends our unfortunate brother to Masonic sympathy and Masonic hearts."

There is in this the spirit of the doctrines we inculcate liberally, and we believe Masonically exemplified; although, as a matter of discretion and policy, we might counsel otherwise.

No Mason could condemn this charity, and no Chapter could be disciplined for exercising it.

In Companion B. B. French's Compendium of the Proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, we find some important action bearing upon this subject. The

majority of the committee on Masonic jurisprudence reported the following, among other resolutions :

"*Resolved*, That it is Masonically illegal for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, on a brother Master Mason who has lost a leg or an arm."

A minority submitted a substitute, as follows :

"*Resolved* That inasmuch as Masonry is speculative rather than operative, that it is Masonic and legal for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch, on a worthy Master Mason who has lost an arm or a leg Chapters in all cases being the proper judges of the propriety of so doing."

These resolutions were made the special order for a subsequent session, and came up for discussion.

Companion Tucker, one of the majority who reported the first resolution quoted, moved the following :

"*Resolved*, That it is competent, and Masonically lawful, for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the respective Degrees of Masonry within their jurisdiction upon all candidates whose defects of bodily qualifications are not such as to prevent them from conforming literally to what such Degrees respectively require, if in other respects qualified."

Companion Mackey (not of the committee) moved to strike out all after the word resolved, and insert :

"That no Royal Arch Chapter should take a candidate unless he be a perfect man, having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art."

Companion Gilman (not of the committee) moved to strike out Companion Mackey's resolution, and insert as follow :

"That it is incompetent for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the respective Degrees of Masonry upon candidates whose physical defects are such as to prevent them from conforming literally to all the requirements of those Degrees."

In this form the question was disposed of.

It is to be regretted that no report of the discussion appears. We think, however, that from the modifications which the majority report underwent, it is deducible that the General Grand Chapter were unwilling to take from the Chapters the right to exercise their discretion in the matter, excepting only that the candidate must be able to conform to the requirements of the degrees. What these requirements are, each Chapter is left to determine for itself; and we have seen, that so lately as in 1866, the Grand Chapter of Alabama held a candidate who had lost an arm as not disqualified thereby.

Without going further into a discussion of this subject, your committee would report the following resolutions :

1st. That upon the statement of facts as to Brother Libby's physical defects, there is no objection to his receiving the Degrees of Royal Arch Masonry

2d. That this question of physical disqualification is one in the determination

of which each Chapter must judge for itself, being guided only by a sound discretion and an enlightened judgment as to the requirements of our Craft.

N. P. CHIPMAN,
J. DANIELS.
JOHN LOCKIE.

The Special Committee to whom was referred the subject of the "Order of Priesthood," through Companion Middleton, submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

"WASHINGTON, November, 30, 1868.

*To the M.: E.: Grand High Priest and
Companions of G.: R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia:*

Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of the Order of Priesthood, beg leave to report, that they have had the same under consideration, and would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, in lieu of the ones submitted to the Grand Chapter at the Convocation held May 27, 1867:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, the Order of Priesthood should be under the exclusive control of P.: H.: Priests and H.: Priests who have attained to that degree.

Resolved, That the P.: H.: Priests and H.: Priests of this jurisdiction be requested to meet at an early day, and organize a Council of High Priesthood.

WM. MIDDLETON,
JOHN LOCKIE,
N. D. LARNER.

Committee.

The Special Committee to whom was referred the annual address of M.: E.: G.: High Priest Holmead, and the resolutions passed by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, at its late Triennial Convocation, submitted, through M.: E.: Companion B. B. French, a report, which was read, and after a lengthy and interesting debate was amended and adopted, as follows:

To the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia:

The committee to which was referred so much of the address of the M.: E.: Grand High Priest as relates to the resolutions of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, together with the last two resolutions referred to in that address, respectfully report:

That they entirely concur in the views and opinions expressed by the Grand High Priest in regard to those resolutions.

The General Grand Chapter, having adopted the first resolution, recognizing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as a regular Grand Chapter, instantly, upon its adoption, placed this Grand Chapter in an independent

position under the Constitution of the G. G. Chapter itself, and having no power of discipline over it, the third resolution, touching the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter over its members, is null and void.

And the General Grand Chapter having declared Potomac Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, located in Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, to be under the jurisdiction *alone* of the General Grand Chapter of the United States by that declaration, constituted it a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, so far as that General Grand body possessed any power over it, and, as it would be an anomaly in Royal Arch Masonry to have a Chapter in existence possessing no territorial jurisdiction, that is, having no power to work—and as your committee believe that a Royal Arch Chapter must either possess *all* the attributes of such a body, or cease to exist—they can come to no other conclusion than that, if Potomac Chapter is a regular Chapter, it has full jurisdiction over Royal Arch Masonry in the town of Georgetown, and no action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States can deprive them of it.

But your committee, being exceedingly desirous of creating a feeling of harmony among the Royal Arch Craft in the District of Columbia, and having full faith in the good intentions of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, do not hesitate to recommend to this Grand Chapter such action as will carry into full effect the two resolutions* now under consideration; and to do this, they report the following resolutions, and hope to see them unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia does hereby rescind all resolutions, orders, or edicts, heretofore adopted, made or issued by said Grand Chapter, or any of its officers, suspending or expelling any Companion or Companions, on account of the difficulties growing out of the formation of said Grand Chapter, and also the edict declaring Potomac Chapter clandestine; and hereby declares all such Companions restored to their standing in this Grand Chapter as Royal Arch Masons.

Resolved, That while the Grand Chapter recognizes fully the well-settled rule in Masonic jurisprudence, that no Grand body has any power over a Subordinate body, of a renewal of the action of such Subordinate, in relation to the discipline of its members, except on appeal; yet this Grand Chapter does not hesitate to recommend such action on the part of the Subordinate Chapters under its jurisdiction as will carry out in good faith the spirit and meaning of the resolutions of the General Grand Chapter, so far as the conduct of the Companions heretofore dealt with may be consistent with said resolutions since their adoption.

B. B. FRENCH,
J. DANIELS,
CH. H. HALL,
JNO. EDW. MASON,
Committee.

Companions Rev. Grand Chaplain and Grand Secretary submitted the following resolution, which was adopted by a vote of yeas 25, nays 3; the vote having been taken by Chapters.

*For these resolutions see address of M. E. G. H. P.

Resolved, That for the purpose of manifesting the spirit of unity and fraternity on the part of this Grand Chapter, and to encourage it among the Subordinate Chapters of this District, a special committee be appointed, to consist of the M. E. Grand High Priest and four other Companions, to receive and consider any propositions that Potomac Chapter may make to become a constituent member of this Grand Chapter, and to report at the order of the Grand High Priest.

The committee appointed in compliance with the foregoing resolution is as follows :

Companions B. B. French, Rev. C. H. Hall, H. A. Whallon, J. Daniels, and Jos. T. Brown.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was directed to send to Potomac Chapter a copy of the report of the committee on the Grand High Priest's address as adopted, and also a copy of the above resolution.

Comp. Hancock, from the committee appointed to revise the work of the jurisdiction, reported that the committee was prepared to make a partial report; but, the hour being late, the M. E. G. High Priest announced that the report would not be received this evening, but he would call a special meeting on Saturday evening, the 12th instant, to hear the report of the committee.

On motion of Comp. Hancock, the Constituent Chapters were authorized to arrange suitable music to be used in conferring the several Degrees.

There being no further business, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form, with prayer by the Rev. Grand Chaplain.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

Previous to the closing of the Grand Chapter, Comp. MacGrotty, Chairman of the Committee on Accounts, reported that he had examined the books of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and found the following to be the financial condition of the Grand Chapter:

N. D. LARNER, Grand Secretary, in account with the Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Dr.		Cr.	
1868.		1868.	
Nov. 9	To cash from Columbia Chapter, No. 1, annual dues	\$116 50	By cash to Grand Treasurer.....
	" " Washington " No. 2,	155 50	
	" " Mt. Vernon " No. 3,	110 50	
	" " Eureka " No. 4,	107 00	
	" " Lafayette " No. 5,	114 00	
		—	
		\$603 50	\$603 50



C. SMITH, Grand Treasurer, in account with the Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Dr.			1868.		Cr.
1867.					
Nov. 11.	To balance.....	\$301 21	Jan. 2	To Gibson Brothers, for printing.....	\$136 50
1868.			May 12.	Grand Secretary, for salary.....	50 00
Aug. 31.	To amount borrowed from Mount Vernon Chapter, No 3.....	100 00	June 6.	Gibson Brothers, for printing.....	18 50
Sept. 9.	To amount borrowed from Washington Chapter, No. 2.....	200 00	Aug. 29.	Grand High Priest, expenses to General Grand Chapter.....	100 00
Nov. 9.	To cash from Grand Secretary.....	603 50	Sept. 2.	Deputy Grand High Priest, expenses to General Grand Chapter.....	100 00
			Sept. 2.	Grand King, expenses to G.: G.: Chap.	100 00
			Sept. 2	Grand Scribe, " " " "	100 00
				Balance	599 71
		\$1 204 71			\$1,204 71

STATEMENT,

Showing the numerical condition of the several Chapters in the jurisdiction, with the work of the past year, and amounts due and paid by each to the Grand Chapter, at the Annual Convocation, November, 1868.

Name and No. of Chapter.	Number of members per last return.	Add.			Total.	Deduct.					Present No. of members	Rejected.	Amount due and paid by the several Chapters to the Grand Chapter.
		Exalted since.	Affiliated.	Reinstated.		Withdrawn.	Died.	Dropped.	Suspended.	Expelled.			
Columbia.....No. 1	117	21	2	5	145	2	..	14	..	1	128	1	\$116 50
Washington.....No. 2	188	22	2	1	213	6	1	1	..	..	205	..	155 50
Mt. Vernon.....No. 3	130	20	..	..	150	10	2	17	..	..	121	..	110 50
Eureka.....No. 4	29	32	..	..	61	1	..	..	..	..	60	..	107 00
Lafayette.....No. 5	34	32	2	..	68	..	..	..	..	..	68	..	114 00
	498	127	6	6	637	19	3	32	..	1	582	1	\$603 50

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

RETURNS
OF
CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS
WORKING UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

At the Annual Convocation in November, 1868, with the Names of their Officers for the
year ending November, 1869.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER, No. 1.

Meets on the first and third Wednesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

JOHN LOCKIE, M. E. H. Priest. GEORGE D. PATTEN, Jr., E. Scribe.
JOSEPH T. BROWN, E. King. JOSIAH ESSEX, Treasurer.
HENRY O. NOYES, Secretary.

PAST HIGH PRIESTS AND PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

B. B. FRENCH, P. G. H. Priest and M. E. G. H. Priest.
L. G. STEPHENS, P. H. P. and P. D. G. H. Priest.
JOHN LOCKIE, D. G. H. Priest.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Abbott, Geo. A.	Champion, Robt. A.	Fager, Jno. C.
Acker, Nicholas	Choate, W. C.	Ferguson, Robt. B.
Albright, Fred'k	Choate, Warren	Ford, Chas. M.
Armstrong, R. G.	Cohen, Mark.	French, B. B.
Beatty, J. Hamilton	Cole, H. V.	Froiseth, B. A. M.
Beck, Wm.	Coleman, S. B.	Garfield, Jas. A.
Bishop, David J.	Copp, Henry N.	Gawler, Alf'd H.
Bliss, D. Willard	Cowie, George	Gibson, George
Boswell, Rich'd H.	Creaser, Thos.	Griffith, Chas. T.
Bowen, Chas. H.	Crosby, W. H.	Hall, Rev. Chas. H.
Branson, Philip H.	Crown, Sam'l T.	Hammacher, Jos.
Breece, H. C.	Cruit, Henry	Heilbrun, L.
Brown, B. W.	Curtis, Henry B.	Henderson, Gustavus A.
Brown, E. R.	Demelman, D. S.	Herzberg, Charles
Brown, Jos. T.	Dillon, M. A.	Hills, Wallace H.
Browning, Horatio	Donaldson, Robt. B.	Holmead, Rev. A.
Bryan, Wm.	Dummer, Geo. E.	Hood, H. O.
Burr, Henry C.	Edmond, J. D.	Houston, Jno. H.
Calvert, Fred. G.	Edwards, Edward	Howland, Geo. W.
Casey, Chas. C.	Essex, Josiah	Humer, J. S.

Humphrey, Josiah	Milburn, Benedict	Small, Bruce
Jewell, J. M.	Mills, W. H.	Stamp, M. R.
Jochum, J. H.	Moore, Silas H.	St. Clair, Jas. W.
Johansen, H. P. T.	Moore, W. O.	Stephens, Lewis G.
Johnson, Wm. T.	Morgan, Henry	Stewart, J. C.
Kennedy, R. B.	Moulden, Jno. A.	Stoddard, Leonard
Kerr, John	Mowry, Geo. W.	Tenney, Wm. M.
Knox, Geo. W.	Muldrum, J.	Tomlinson, J. S.
Kondrup, J. C.	Nelson, C. C.	Topham, J. S.
Leisnitzer, E. J.	Niles, Sam'l V.	Vaux, Ethan P.
Leonard, T. Jeff.	Noyes, Henry O.	Walker, Geo. H.
Lobb, David C.	Nutze, Chas. T.	Ward, Geo. C.
Lockie, John	Owen, Sam'l W.	Wheeler, Chas. S.
Lord, Jno. B.	Parker, Myron M.	White, Jas. W.
Macarty, D. J.	Patten, Geo. D., Jr.	Wight, Gilbert M.
Magee, Jas. S.	Peyser, Jacob	Wilcox, Ephraim B.
McGuire, Jas. C.	Poynton, J. C.	Williamson, J. B.
McKee, Jas. W.	Purdy, John	Wirt, W. Wall
McKendry, Wallace	Root, B. C.	De Witzleben, Arthur
McLeod, E. M.	Russell, Jno. H.	Wollard, Jos. F.
McMurray, Robt.	Slater, Isaac C.	Wurdemann, Jno. V.
Menet, Francis J.	Slater, Jno. S.	Wypvill, Walter D.
Merrill, Henry S.		

REINSTATED.

Acker, Nicholas	Johnson, W. T.	De Witzleben, Arthur
Breece, H. C.	Perrine, H. A.	

WITHDRAWN.

Becker, Clayton F.	Perrine, H. A.
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EXPELLED.

McPherson, Henry H.

WASHINGTON CHAPTER, No. 2.

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

J. O. GOODRICH, M. E. H. Priest.	ROS. A. FISH, E. Scribe.
W. H. ORCUTT, E. King.	ROBT. H. GRAHAM, Treasurer.
D. L. BURNETT, Secretary.	

PAST HIGH PRIESTS AND PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD, P. H. P. and P. G. H. Priest.

H. GLASS, P. H. P. and P. G. King.

WM. MIDDLETON, P. H. P. and G. Scribe.

J. MOODY SMITH, P. H. Priest.

A. T. LONGLEY, P. H. Priest.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Ackerman, W. L.

Ashley, J. R.

Ashby, J. R.

Abbott, A. W.

Allen, S. E.

Atkins, E. H.

Bailey, Robert

Baldwin, Edward

Ball, Robert

Barroll, Frank H.

Bartholow, J. P.

Bassett, Geo. T.

Baxter, M. C.

Beekman, James

Belger James

Blackford, W. D.

Blakely, T. M.

Blout, I. L.

Bogan, S. W.

Bond, S. V.

Bonell, Edward

Boteler, Henry D.

Bowen, E. W.

Boyden, George

Brown, John

Browning, J. W.

Buckley, J. T.

Burnett, D. L.

Campbell, Richard

Campbell, T. B.

Campbell, Wm. J.

Carpenter, L. Cass

Chapman, H. N.

Chapman, Rev. W. H.

Childs, A. F.

Clark, George B.

Clarke, George H.

Cooper, Bishop

Corbin, E. Lyon

Cornelius, Rev. J. W.

Cowan, W. L.

Cox, Joseph L.

Craig, Andrew

Craig, F. J.

Croggan, R. C.

Cropley, W. C.

Cross, T. B., Jr.

Crown, S. T.

Cushaw, E. L.

Darr, Charles W.

Davis, Eldred G.

Dawson, J. B.

Delano, M. F.

Dell, F. C.

Delwig, L. A.

De Ney, Vasco

Doughty, J. H.

Dwinal, Chs. H.

Dyre, Wm. W. S.

Earl, Charles

Earl, Wm. H.

Ellis, Henry C.

Farran, George

Fish, Ros. A.

Foos, John A.

Forbes, Darius

Frederic, John D.

Freeman, Benj.

Fugitt, N. B.

Fuller, W. H.

Gaddis, Geo. H.

Gaddis, William

Gardner, Thos. I.

Garrison, John R.

Gedney, J. F.

Gibson, James F.

Glass, Andrew

Glover, T.

Goggan, R.

Goodrich, J. O.

Gorman, A. P.

Gradwahl, L.

Graham, R. H.

Graham, W. W.

Green, H. M.

Griffin, E. W. W.

Grossmayer, N.

Guild, James

Gunn, P. H.

Hable, A.

Hable, S. L.

Hamlin, J. P.

Hanson, J. G.

Hartz, Wilson T.

Hayes, Chas. W.

Hennage, J. H.

Henning, A.

Hibbs, Geo. D. C.

Higgins, H. A.

Hinds, George

Hirsch, Moses

Hocke, Wm. H.

Hogan, John

Holmead, J. E. F.

Holroyd, John

Howard, A. M.	Peterson, August	Street, J. R.
Hudson, James	Phillips, A.	Sullivan, J. J.
Hughes, Evan	Pierson, H. C.	Sykes, L.
Hunt, Hiram L.	Pocock, Thomas	Tacey, Jefferson
Huntoon, A. J.	Porter, James E.	Taylor, A. S.
James, Clement	Power, Richard	Thompson, Geo. R.
Johnson, Wm. H.	Reed, Thomas M.	Thorn, Benj. T.
Kaighn, M. M.	Reifsnyder, J. H.	Tilley, Stephen
Kennedy, Thomas	Reigart, J. M.	Tolson, A.
Krame, L. J.	Riley, Phil. C.	Toomb, R.
Leamy, John	Robertson, J.	Trimble, M.
Levy, L.	Rogers, George I.	Tyssowski, J.
Logan, D. J.	Roose, W. S.	Van Campen, J. S.
Longley, A. T.	Samuels, D.	Vandenbaugh, J. V. W.
Mann, W. D.	Sears, Charles A.	Varela, A. C.
Marks, H. S.	Sears, P. B.	Vermillion, J.
Marks, S. A. H.	Schleimer, D.	Von Gieglengen, B.
Mason, J. M.	Scudder, Rev. Jos.	Voute, C. H.
McClermont, R.	Sheriff, George L.	Walker, James T.
McElwee, James	Sherman, Chas.	Walter, William
McKim, S. A. H.	Skerrett, Wm. H.	Weber, L. F. W.
Meloy, S. H.	Slater, S. E.	Webster, J. R.
Middleton, Wm.	Smith, Charles B.	Wells, G. Wiley
Mitchell, M. C.	Smith, J. Moody	Whitefoot, R. M.
Moore, W. D.	Smith, John M.	Whyte, Fredk.
Morgan, Richard	Somerville, Thomas	Wilkerson, Wm.
Nalley, W. H.	Spencer, Frank A.	Williams, E.
Newton, A. Steve	Steele, J. M.	Williamson, James
Noble, H. B.	Stephenson, W. J.	Winter, S. R.
Norton, Frank A.	Sterling, Wm. J.	Woods, Andrew
Nutt, G. W.	Stewart, John A.	Wolfe, A. B.
Orcutt, W. H.	Stiles, V. N.	Young, George D.
O'Rear, W. A.	Stock, J. G.	Zevely, E. A.
Pearl, Marcus		

REINSTATED.

Mann, W. D.

WITHDRAWN.

O'Daniel, J. P.

Wolf, Simon

Wetherill, W. P.

Wing, H. B.

DIED.

Hawkins, W. N.

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

Wood, George W.

MT. VERNON CHAPTER, No. 3.

Meets on the second and fourth Mondays in each month.

OFFICERS.

DOLSON B. SEABLE, M. E. H. Priest. JOHN W. GRIFFIN, E. Scribe.
 JOSEPH DANIELS, E. King. NATHAN B. CLARKE, Treasurer.
 WM. H. FRY, Secretary.

PAST HIGH PRIESTS AND PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

JAMES STEELE. CHAS. W. HANCOCK, P. G. King.
 HENRY A. WHALLON, G. King.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Alexander, C. L.	Daniels, J.	Hay, W. J.
Allen, E. K.	Davis, B. F.	Hesse, J. C.
Anderson, W. S.	Dawson, C.	Hoover, J. W.
Ashdown, W. W.	Davy, J., Jr.	Heywood, Geo. B.
Appel, Chas. A.	Dorrance, O. H.	Helmus, Wm.
Bates, Geo. A.	Daniels, F. G.	Isham, L. D.
Baxter, Sam'l	Driggs, Geo. T.	Janson, J. C.
Brown, P. B.	Dole, S. A.	Keasby, J. B.
Brown, W. J.	Doyle, J. A.	Kimball, L. W.
Burgdorf, L.	Duren, J. A.	King, F.
Barrows, S. M.	Eichler, W.	La Fetra, G. H.
Cameron, John	Eldridge, W. W.	Lee, J. G. C.
Cate, A. B.	Farlee, W. A.	Love, R. H.
Catlin, C. L.	Fenton, F. A.	Loweree, G. E.
Castle, D. E.	Firman, O. S.	Littlewood, J. B.
Clark, N. B.	Francis G. W.	McClellan, J. O.
Clarke, P. M.	Fry, W. H.	Meding, C. W.
Clark, E. W., Jr.	Fowler, T. T.	Metcalf, F. S.
Cluss, A.	Franz, C. F. L.	Merrill, M. L.
Cooper, J. S.	Fisher, H. L.	Moore, M. M.
Comstock, O. W.	Garwood, S. N.	Milburn, W. L.
Copeland, W. P.	Gilbert, B. F.	Morris, E. L.
Crutchley, W. F.	Glasscott, W. H.	Nicolay, J. H.
Currier, J. C.	Griffin, J. W.	Nordstrom, C. E.
Chase, F. W.	Hancock, C. W.	Page, Chas.

Partello, D. J.	Schurz, A. P.	Thorn, S. N.
Partello, W. P.	Shelton, R. H.	Tichenor, I. S.
Patten, C. L.	Shelton, C. W.	Wallace, R. B.
Patterson, J. J.	Shepherd, C. T.	Walker, Cyrus
Pearson, J. W.	Sherwood, H. L.	Whallon, H. A.
Philp, F.	Sleeper, S. A.	Whitman, G. A.
Piney, Geo. M.	Stevens, C. C.	White, H. A.
Pike, B. S.	Steele, James	Wilson, J. C.
Pratt, Geo. W.	Stuyvesant, G. W.	Wilson, L. A.
Pickell, J. H.	Sweet, Wm. E.	Wright, Allen
Porter, G. L.	Sylvester, J. H.	Washburn, H. S.
Partridge, Geo. W.	Terry, S. A.	Walsh, M. H.
Riley, James	Thompson, M.	Whittington, Geo. W.
Russell, S. B.	Tolman, L. W.	Yates, Wm. A.
Searle, D. B.	Tyler, W. C.	Young, G. I.
Searle, H. R.		

WITHDRAWN.

Croggon, R. C.	Niemyer, A.	Sawtelle, H. W.
Godfrey, E. D.	Russell, J. F.	Stevenson, W. J.
Hickok, W. H.	Robertson, Wm.	Stiles, J.
Morey, E. P.		

DIED.

Bemiss, Isaac A.	Williams, Thos. J.
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DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

Ballard, Geo. C.	Davis, J.	Lacy, R. S.
Brady, Chas. B.	Eastman, N.	Meyer, M. J.
Bullock, J. F.	Fisher, Geo. P.	Reed, Amos
Bunce, J. R.	Giddings, E.	Rice, Geo.
Clarke, J. G.	Goodall, Geo. W.	Stewart, W. H.
Dann, Wm.	Kilbourne, E. A.	

EUREKA CHAPTER, No. 4.

Meets on the second and fourth Fridays in each month.

OFFICERS.

EDW. B. MACGROTTY, M. E. H. Priest.	ISAAC L. JOHNSON, E. Scribe.
ANTHONY BUCHLY, E. King.	WM. H. GOODS, Treasurer.
S. JNO. THOMSON, Secretary.	

PAST HIGH PRIESTS AND PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

CHAUNCEY SMITH, P.: H.: Priest and Grand Treasurer.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Abrams, A.	Gassenheimer, L.	Reynolds, C. W.
Amiss, T. B.	Gettinger, B. F.	Ridenour, U. H.
Anderson, W. A.	Goods, Wm. H.	Schafhirt, F. H.
Barker, Wm. P.	Greer, C. C.	Seip, R. C.
Bartlett, J. D.	Hadaway, C.	Short, W. A.
Been, H.	Harmon, C. P.	Siegel, M.
Bell, W. P.	Humphrey, R. T.	Slater, J.
Benjamin, C. F.	Johnson, Wm. H.	Smith, C.
Boyd, W. H.	Johnson, I. L.	Smith, F. H.
Bright, J. G.	Johnson, A. E. H.	Spencer, H. C.
Buchly, A.	Keyworth, J.	Thomson, S. Jno.
Butt, W. B.	Knox, J.	Tudor, W. V.
Butts, A. B.	Low, J. C.	Vale, J. M.
Crump, J. E.	MacGrotty, E. B.	Viven, J. L.
Curtis, W.	McLeary, E. S.	Wall, J. C.
Davis, J. G.	Morsell, S. T. G.	Wilson, D.
Dearing, G. T.	Mueller, G. I.	Wilson, P. R.
Fearson, C. D.	Munson, H. T.	Winnemore, I. J.
Fowler, C. H.	Myers, W. C.	Yager, J. H.
Franzoni, C. W.	Proctor, T.	Young, W. P.

WITHDRAWN.

Brunner, Jno. L.

LA FAYETTE CHAPTER, No. 5.

Meets on the first and third Saturdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

NOBLE D LARNER, M.: E.: H.: Priest. CHARLES E. COON, E.: Scribe.
 DANIEL S. JONES, E.: King. MYRON E. N. HOWELL, Treasurer.
 JOHN EDWIN MASON, Secretary.

PAST HIGH PRIESTS AND PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

N. P. CHIPMAN. NOBLE D. LARNER, and Grand Secretary.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Adams, J. Lee	Gambs, George	Singleton, Wm. R.
Baker, Henry M.	Gilmore, Charles D.	Small, William
Barns, James J.	Greer, John R.	Smith, Andrew C.
Barr, Henry D.	Griffith, Fleming R.	Smith, J. Dempster
Barr, Thomas F.	Grinnell, James S.	Sniffen, Culver C.
Barry William M.	Heald, Issachar A.	Spear, Chas. W.
Bates, Stephen	Howe, Edward S.	Stanton, Irving W.
Bentley, Alexander J.	Howell, Myron E. N.	Steele, Thos. J.
Betz, Louis	Jones, Daniel S.	Strachan, S. S.
Brewster, Henry A.	Larner, Noble D.	Thompson, John B.
Bunker, Geo. W.	Mason, John Edwin	Towles, Henry O.
Burnham, D S.	McCoy, Joseph S.	Transue, Absalom
Chipman, N. P.	McKeever, Samuel	Wannall, Chas. P.
Coon, Charles E.	McLean, Harry Clay	Waugh, James E.
Colledge Chas. B. R.	Moore, Wm. G.	Webb, Robert W.
Cramer, Joseph B.	Morgan, Converse G.	Welcker, Peter D.
Creecy, C. Eaton	Moulton, Chas. H.	Wheeler, Henry W.
Dickinson, Geo. T.	Owen, Fred. Wooster	Whitney, Wm. H.
Dixon, John H.	Perley, James P.	Will, Joseph B.
Duncan, Samuel A.	Pierce, Daniel T.	Wolf, Simon
French, Benjamin F.	Rider, Wm. L.	Witherow, James M.
Fuller, Edw. H.	Shepherd, Thomas M.	Wright, William
Gage, Norris L.	Simms, John W.	



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand R.: A.: Chapter

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

For the Year 1869.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON CITY:

M'GILL & WITHEROW, PRINTERS AND STEREOTYPERS.

1870.

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PROCEEDINGS.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1868,

A Special Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at 7 o'clock p. m.

PRESENT:

R. E. Comp.	H. A. WHALLON,	as G. H. Priest.
"	J. T. BROWN,	as G. King.
"	W. MIDDLETON,	G. Scribe.
"	N. D. LARNER,	G. Secretary.
"	C. SMITH,	G. Treasurer.
E.	J. DANIELS,	G. Host.
"	E. B. MacGROTTY,	G. P. Sojourner.
"	J. H. RUSSELL,	as G. R. A. Capt.
"	T. B. CAMPBELL,	G. M. of 3d Vail.
"	J. MOODY SMITH,	as G. M. of 2d Vail.
"	D. S. JONES,	G. M. of 1st Vail.
"	L. STODDARD,	G. Janitor.

Representatives from all the Chapters.

The Grand Chapter was opened in due form.

The Grand High Priest stated that the Grand Chapter had been called together to receive the report of the committee appointed to revise the work of the several degrees.

Labor in the Chapter was then dispensed with, and a Lodge of Mark Master Masons duly opened. The Grand Visitor and Lecturer, Comp. Hancock; occupied the East, and, with the assistance of the committee, exemplified the Mark Master's degree, as adopted by the committee.

The Lodge of Mark Master Masons was then closed and a Lodge of Past Master Masons duly opened, when the committee exemplified the Past Master's degree, as adopted by them.

The Lodge of Past Master Masons was then closed and labor resumed in the Chapter.

The report of the committee on work, after a few amendments

had been made, was adopted, and the Grand Visitor and Lecturer directed to disseminate the same throughout the jurisdiction.

The Grand Chapter was then called to a resumed Convocation on Tuesday evening, December 29, 1868.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, December 29, 1868.

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met at 7 o'clock p. m., and resumed work.

PRESENT:

R. E. Comp.	H. A. WHALLON,	.....as G. H. Priest.
"	" C. W. HANCOCK,	.....as G. King.
"	" L. G. STEPHENS,	.....as G. Scribe.
"	" N. D. LARNER,	.....G. Secretary.
E. "	J. DANIELS,	.....G. C. of the Host.
"	" E. B. MacGROTTY,	.....G. P. Sojourner.
"	" J. W. GRIFFIN,	.....as G. R. A. Captain.
"	" R. A. FISH,	.....as G. M. of 3d Vail.
"	" J. MOODY SMITH,	.....G. M. of 2d Vail.
"	" L. D. ISHAM,	.....as G. M. of 1st Vail.
"	" L. STODDARD,	.....G. Janitor.

And representatives from all the Chapters.

The Grand Chapter having resumed work for the purpose of hearing a further report from the committee appointed to revise the work of the several degrees, work in the Chapter was dispensed with and a Lodge of Most Excellent Masters duly opened. The Grand Visitor and Lecturer occupied the East, and, with the assistance of the committee, exemplified the Most Excellent Master's degree, as adopted by the committee.

The Lodge of Most Excellent Masters was then closed and work resumed in the Chapter, when the report of committee on the Most Excellent Master's degree was adopted, and the Grand Visitor and Lecturer was directed to disseminate the same throughout the jurisdiction.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in due form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, May 10, 1869.

The Semi-Annual Convocation of the Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, at 7½ o'clock p. m.

PRESENT:

M.: E.: Comp.	B. B. FRENCH,	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R.: E.: "	J. LOCKIE,	<i>D.: Grand High Priest.</i>
"	J. T. BROWN,	<i>as Grand King.</i>
"	W. MIDDLETON,	<i>Grand Scribe</i>
"	N. D. LARNER,	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
"	C. SMITH,	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E.: "	J. DANIELS,	<i>Grand Cap. of Host.</i>
"	E. B. MACGROTTY,	<i>Grand Prin. Sojourner.</i>
"	C. W. HANCOCK,	<i>Grand Vis. and Lecturer.</i>
"	J. E. MASON,	<i>Grand R.: A.: Captain.</i>
"	J. O. GOODRICH,	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
"	J. MOODY SMITH,	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
"	W. H. ORCUTT,	<i>as Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>
"	L. STODDARD,	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priest, J. E. F. Holmead.

Past Deputy Grand High Priest, L. G. Stephens.

Past Grand Kings, A. Glass and C. W. Hancock.

And the following representatives:

From No. 1—J. Lockie, H.: P.:; J. T. Brown, K.: and G. D. Patton; and P.: H.: Priests B. B. French and L. G. Stephens.

From No. 2—J. O. Goodrich, H.: P.:; W. H. Orcutt, K.:; R. A. Fish, S.:; and P.: H.: Priests J. E. F. Holmead, A. Glass, W. Middleton, and J. Moody Smith.

From No. 3—J. Daniels, K.:; J. W. Griffin, S.:; and P.: H.: Priest C. W. Hancock.

From No. 4—E. B. MacGrotty, H.: P.:; A. Buchly, K.:; I. L. Johnson, S.:; and P.: H.: Priest C. Smith.

From No. 5—N. D. Larner, H.: P.:; C. E. Coon, S.:.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

The proceedings of special and resumed Convocations were read and approved.

The M.: E.: Grand High Priest then delivered the following address, when, on motion of Comp. Lockie, the action of the Grand High Priest and the sentiments contained in the address were approved by the Grand Chapter, and the Grand Secretary

directed to cause a sufficient number of the same to be printed and distributed to the various Grand Chapters:

To the Grand Chapter of R. A. Masons of the District of Columbia.

COMPANIONS: It has not been the custom, I believe, for the presiding officer of this Grand Chapter to address the Companions at length at the Semi-Annual Convocation, but matters of grave importance make it my duty, at this time, to depart from the established precedent, and to lay before you certain facts deemed by me of vital importance to the well being and prosperity of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

But, before proceeding to these matters, I will take occasion to congratulate you upon the unprecedented prosperity that has been vouchsafed to the Companions of this jurisdiction since this Grand Chapter was legally and masonically constituted, in May, 1867. Five chartered Chapters, with an aggregate membership of between six and seven hundred, are here represented, and on the 30th day of January last I issued my dispensation for the formation of a new Chapter, to be known as "Washington Naval Chapter," to be located at the Navy Yard. I understand application will be made for a charter at this Convocation, and I earnestly recommend that it be granted.

Among all these the most perfect harmony and kind feeling prevail. Not a single complaint; not a single case as to discipline has been laid before me since I entered upon the duties of Grand High Priest; and, like the bow of promise in the heavens, the assurance is given that no flood can ever overwhelm us. We are a power within ourselves; and as long as we can escape local feuds and divisions we shall remain so. Let us then adopt the advice, placed in the mouth of one individual to another, by the great poet of human nature:

"This above all, to thine own self be true,
And it shall follow as the light the sun,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Let us be true to ourselves, and in the end the world of Royal Arch Masonry will surely discover that we are true to them.

Even now TIME and RIGHT are working for us, and the prejudices that have been sown broadcast against us, like bad seed sown in bad ground, are drying up and withering away.

I have the proud satisfaction of announcing that every Grand Royal Arch Chapter, save one, in the United States, acknowledges and sustains us as the sovereign power of Royal Arch Masonry in this District, and we are in fraternal correspondence with them.

To that Power who governs all the movements of mankind let us tender our sincere thanks for all the prosperity we enjoy, and, in the solemn words adopted in our ritual, say: "For HE is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

At the last regular Convocation of this Grand Chapter, on the 30th of November last, the following resolution was adopted by an almost unanimous vote:

"Resolved, That, for the purpose of manifesting the spirit of unity and fraternity on the part of this Grand Chapter, and to encourage it among the subordinate Chapters of this District, a special committee be appointed, to consist of the M. E. Grand High Priest and four other Companions, to receive and consider any propositions that Potomac Chapter may make to become a constituent

member of this Grand Chapter, and to report at the order of the Grand High Priest."

The committee was appointed, consisting, in conjunction with the Grand High Priest, of Companions Rev. C. H. Hall, H. A. Whallon, Joseph Daniels, and Joseph T. Brown.

The Grand Secretary was directed to send to Potomac Chapter a copy of this resolution, with a copy of a report of a committee made at the same Convocation, touching the same subject.

The Grand Secretary complied forthwith with the order of the Grand Chapter, and Potomac Chapter had the subject before them at their next meeting.

On the 30th of December I received a communication in the following words:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., December 28, 1868:

"Hon. B. B. FRENCH,

"Chairman of Committee of Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.

"DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inform you that a communication has been received from your Grand Secretary, enclosing a copy of report and resolutions adopted November 30th, ultimo, which were read in Potomac Chapter and referred to the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

"Fraternally, yours,

"W. MORRIS SMITH, H. P."

Had I not been aware that Potomac Chapter had repudiated the motherly care the General Grand Chapter had sought to exercise over it, I should have been at a loss to divine her reason for selecting the Grand Chapter of Maryland in preference to any other Grand Chapter in the United States as the one to be honored by the receipt of *our* communication. That Grand Chapter was neither named nor alluded to in our report or resolutions, and the General Grand Chapter of the United States, by a special resolution adopted at its last meeting at St. Louis,

"*Resolved*, That Potomac Chapter, within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, not having united in the formation of said Grand Chapter, is now under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, but without territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the caputular degrees"—

Thus striving to sever Potomac Chapter from the jurisdiction of all governing bodies except the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and intending to leave her to die of starvation ere long!

But Potomac Chapter, having elected to transmit our courteous and paternal appeal to that Grand Chapter, and also having elected to repudiate the care of the General Grand Chapter and to affiliate with the Grand Chapter of Maryland, nothing further has been heard of our communication to this day.

It having been made known to me that Potomac Chapter had thus repudiated the General Grand Chapter, and in defiance of the order of that body was conferring the Chapter degrees upon candidates, and having heard nothing from it since the receipt of the letter above quoted from its High Priest, I felt it incumbent upon myself *as a duty* to address a letter to the General Grand High Priest, which I did, as follows:

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

"OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF THE
 "GRAND CHAPTER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
 "WASHINGTON CITY, *February 13, 1869.*

"M. E. JAMES M. AUSTIN,
 "General Grand High Priest of the
 "General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"MOST EXCELLENT AND DEAR COMPANION: It is officially known to you that at the regular Triennial Communication of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, at St. Louis, Missouri, in September last, that General Grand body recognized the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as a regular Grand Chapter.

"That it defined the position of Potomac Chapter as 'within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, but that, not having united in the formation of that Grand Chapter, it was under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, without territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the capitular degrees.'

"It also directed, that all acts of censure, suspension, or expulsion, growing out of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, be declared null and void, and the Companions of the District of Columbia, who have been affiliated with Potomac Chapter be, and are hereby, declared to be in good and regular standing as members of such Chapter.

"This action having taken place, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia became a regular constituent body of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"Potomac Chapter also became a regular constituent body of said General Grand Chapter, without any power further than merely to keep up its organization, and its members had no more right to appear in the Grand Chapter of Maryland and act as a portion of that Grand body than they had to appear in the Grand Chapter of New York or any other Grand Chapter.

"Notwithstanding the well-defined status of Potomac Chapter by the General Grand Chapter, it is a matter of record that it has assumed to be a constituent body of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, was represented in that Grand Chapter at its last regular meeting, and some of its members were duly elected officers of that Grand Chapter and installed into office.

"And it hardly admits of a doubt, although no direct evidence is in my possession, that in defiance of the order of the General Grand Chapter, it is now receiving and acting upon petitions for the degrees usually conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter.

"At the regular Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, on the 9th of November, 1868, I, having acted as proxy for the Grand High Priest in the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, attended, and gave as full an account as I could of all that was done by the General Grand Chapter relative to our jurisdiction, and the resolutions adopted by the General Grand Chapter were laid before our Grand Chapter by the Grand Secretary, and the one recognizing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as a legal Grand Chapter was ordered to be spread upon our proceedings, and the others were referred to a special committee.

"At a resumed communication, held on the 30th of November, that committee, of which I had the honor to be chairman, made a report, recommending such action by our Grand Chapter as would carry into effect the resolutions of the General Grand Chapter which had been referred to them.

"Our Grand Chapter, in conformity with the recommendation of the committee, and actuated, doubtless, by a determination to stand honestly and firmly in the position it had assumed as a constituent of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, adopted resolutions rescinding all its resolutions, orders, or edicts suspending or expelling any Companion or Companions on account of the difficulties growing out of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and also the edict declaring Potomac Chapter clandestine, and declar-

ed all such Companions restored to their standing in the Grand Chapter as Royal Arch Masons.

"The Grand Chapter also recommended to all its subordinates such action as would carry out, in good faith, the spirit and meaning of the resolutions of the General Grand Chapter.

"The following resolution was also adopted.

[See resolution already quoted, relative to Potomac Chapter.]

"Thus you will see that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia has done every thing in its power to produce harmony and kind feeling within this jurisdiction.

"I, as G. C. H. P., have been officially notified that the resolution in reference to Potomac Chapter was duly received by that Chapter, and referred by it to the *Grand Chapter of Maryland*. And that is all that has been done, so far as I have been informed, by Potomac Chapter.

"You will thus see that Potomac Chapter has placed itself in direct antagonism to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, by spurning the position assigned to it as a constituent body of that General Grand body, and uniting itself with the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and also by assuming to work when specially forbidden by the General Grand Chapter.

"I think, Most Excellent Sir, that, upon reviewing this statement, you will conclude that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia has done all in its power to heal the unfortunate difficulties existing among the Royal Arch Craft within this jurisdiction, and has acted loyally and truly as a constituent of that General Grand body, and that Potomac Chapter has pursued a course unauthorized and censurable, and calling for the interposition of your high authority, even to the annulling of its existence as a Chapter.

"And I most respectfully ask that you will interpose that authority, so far as it may seem proper to you so to do.

"I am, most truly, faithfully, and fraternally, yours,

B. B. FRENCH,

"Grand High Priest of the G. R. A. Chapter of the D. of C."

To this letter I received the following reply:

"OFFICE OF THE GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST

"OF THE GENERAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

"OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

"NEW YORK, February 20, 1869.

"M. E. B. B. FRENCH, *Grand High Priest, &c.*

"DEAR SIR AND COMPANION: I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th instant, bringing to my notice the doings of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and also the course being pursued by Potomac Chapter, No. 8, at Georgetown, and calling upon me to interpose my official authority, as General Grand High Priest, to compel said Chapter to adhere to the resolutions adopted by the General Grand Chapter, and, in case of failure thereof, to 'annul the existence' of said Chapter.

"I am also in receipt of the printed proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia for the year 1863. I had previously received 'abstract of the proceedings' of the Grand Chapter of 'Maryland and District of Columbia.'

"From all of which documents I am forced to the conclusion, that *all* the parties interested in the difficulties growing out of the separation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia from the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia have shown a disposition to *ignore* and set at naught the action of the General Grand Chapter relative to said difficulties; and I regret to be obliged to say, that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia seems not to have been the last to repudiate the action of the General Grand Chapter, tending to heal said difficulties; for instead of accepting its decisions 'as those of the supreme judicial tribunal of Royal Arch Masonry in the last resort,' and

considering the same as a finality, your Grand Chapter has thought it necessary to *legislate* thereon, and, accepting one part of the terms of said settlement, has refused to consider the other parts as binding.

"This action of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is the more surprising to me, because it, more than the others, desired the interposition of the authority of the General Grand Chapter.

"Whatever may have been my former views, as a Royal Arch Mason, relative to the questions at issue, in my official capacity, the DECISIONS of the General Grand Chapter must now be my only guide.

"The whole matter of the difficulty between Maryland and the District of Columbia was submitted to the General Grand Chapter, and by that act it acquired power (if it did not before possess such power) to *decide*, and its decision is final and binding. One part of the decision thus given cannot be accepted, and the other portion rejected. Hence, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia must be recognized as regular; and hence, also, all acts of censure, suspension, or expulsion, growing out of these difficulties, of whatever kind and by whomsoever exercised, are reversed and set aside, and had no effect from the moment of the adoption of the resolution to that effect by the General Grand Chapter. And there is, therefore, no such act of any force in existence, and the Companions of Potomac Chapter are, in all respects, in as good standing as any other Companions in the world. The subordinate Chapters in the District of Columbia have no jurisdiction over them, and are not required to act on matters which have been taken out of their hands by their lawful superiors. And I deem it to be a fallacy that a Grand body does not possess the power and authority to reverse and set aside the acts of its subordinates.

"From the best information which I have been able to obtain, I am constrained to believe, that, had the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia accepted the 'second' and 'third' resolutions adopted by the General Grand Chapter, Potomac Chapter, No. 8, would ere this have asked to be received in affiliation with said Grand Chapter; and also that the Grand Chapter of 'Maryland and District of Columbia' would surrender its claim over the territory of the District of Columbia.

"Whether I am correct in this belief or not, I am firmly of opinion, that by friendly consultation and mutual forbearance between the parties concerned all difficulties may be brought to a favorable and speedy conclusion.

"And that such may be the case is the fervent prayer of, truly and fraternally,
yours,

JAMES M. AUSTIN,
General Grand High Priest, &c."

Never was I more surprised than upon reading this communication from the General Grand High Priest. It seemed to me as if he had sought, with the astuteness of an attorney laboring in a bad cause, to find some flaw in the indictment.

What this Grand Chapter had supposed to be a ready and perfect compliance with all the requirements of the General Grand Chapter was looked upon by the respected General Grand High Priest as an effort to evade our duties to that General Grand body, and to "ignore and set at naught its action."

I have never replied to this letter, because I looked upon its conclusions as so unjust toward us, that nothing I could say could remove the prejudices against us which seemed to me to exist in the mind of the General Grand High Priest.

That the letter gave me pain and mortification you may well suppose, coming as it did from a Companion whom I have for years held in the highest estimation, and for whom I have at this moment the highest respect and brotherly affection.

Although I did not choose to enter into an argument with the General Grand High Priest, my duty to this Grand Chapter compels me to place upon our record my own views of entire antagonism to the conclusions of that letter.

In the first place, I will call the attention of this Grand Chapter to a paragraph in my own letter, where I say that "Potomac Chapter has pursued a course unauthorized and censurable, and calling for the interposition of your [the General Grand High Priest's] authority, even to the annulling of its existence as a Chapter."

You will observe that this is put *merely as an opinion of my own*.

In the closing paragraph *I ask for action*, in the following words: "And I most respectfully ask that you will interpose that authority, *so far as it may seem proper for you to do so*."

Thus expressing the opinion that Potomac Chapter deserved to have its charter annulled, but asking the interposition of the head of R. A. Masonry in the United States, *so far as he thought proper*.

And he proceeds to construe my letter as asking him "to annul the existence of said Chapter!" which I never did, and never intended to do.

The General Grand High Priest then proceeds to acknowledge the receipt of certain documents from this District and from Maryland, and from them he says that he is forced to the conclusion "that *all* the parties interested in the difficulties growing out of the separation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia from the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia have shown a disposition to *ignore* and set at naught the action of the General Grand Chapter relative to said difficulties; and I regret (says he) that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia seems not to have been the last to repudiate the action of the General Grand Chapter tending to heal those difficulties."

Not having seen the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, referred to by the General Grand High Priest, and having no official knowledge of what Potomac Chapter has been doing, it is impossible for me to know how far those bodies have "ignored and set at naught the action of the General Grand Chapter; and it is not a little remarkable that the General Grand High Priest says not one word in his letter as to their specification, but contents himself by classing them with us, by using the word "all," while, for our *reprehensible* action, as it seems to appear to him, he has no lack of words.

And what have we done? What is our unpardonable offense? Why, says the General Grand High Priest, "instead of accepting the decisions of the General Grand Chapter 'as those of the supreme judicial tribunal of Royal Arch Masonry in the last resort,' and considering them as a finality," we have "thought it necessary to *legislate* thereon, and, accepting one part of the terms of said settlement, have refused to consider the other parts as binding."

Now, let us examine fairly the record of our proceedings, and see whether we have actually been guilty of the grave offense thus charged, and for which we are to be left entirely without even the limited protection which the General Grand High Priest has the power to bestow.

At the last Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter the Grand Secretary laid before it an official copy of the resolutions of the General Grand Chapter.

The first resolution, recognizing this Grand Chapter as a regular Grand Chapter, was spread upon our record.

Our Grand High Priest having commented on the other two resolutions in his annual address, the Grand Chapter, very properly in my judgment, referred the address, with the resolutions, to a select committee.

The Grand Chapter then, in honest compliance with a portion of one of those resolutions, restored M. E. Companion James G. Smith, who had been suspended, to all his rights and privileges, by repealing the resolution suspending him.

Was there anything in these acts like "ignoring" the action of the General Grand Chapter? Certainly there was not.

At a resumed Convocation, November 30, the committee to which the address of the Grand High Priest and the two resolutions were referred reported at length. The report, I admit, argued briefly and doubtfully as to the powers of the General Grand Chapter, but recommended such action by the Grand Chapter *as would carry into full effect* the two resolutions referred to them.

This Grand Chapter, adopting the recommendation of the committee, proceeded to "rescind all resolutions, orders, or edicts, heretofore adopted, made or issued by said Grand Chapter, or any of its officers, suspending or expelling any Companion or Companions, on account of the difficulties growing out of the formation of said Grand Chapter, and also the edict declaring Potomac Chapter clandestine; and hereby declares all such Companions restored to their standing in this Grand Chapter as Royal Arch Masons."

Now, if Companion Austin, or any other Companion, can find words that will carry out more fully and strongly the intentions of the third resolution of the General Grand Chapter than these words do, we will admit that we do not appreciate the strength of the English language!

This Grand Chapter, then, recognizing what they have always regarded a well settled rule of Masonic jurisprudence, that no Grand body has any power over a subordinate body, of a renewal of the action of such subordinate in relation to the discipline of its members except on appeal, proceeded to recommend such action on the part of its subordinates as would carry out in good faith the spirit and meaning of the resolutions of the General Grand Chapter, so far as the conduct of the Companions heretofore dealt with may be consistent with those resolutions since their adoption—the last clause of this resolution having been rendered necessary by the action of some of the Companions of Potomac Chapter, *ignoring* the order of the General Grand Chapter.

In relation, I presume, to this resolution, the General Grand High Priest says in his letter: "I deem it to be a fallacy, that a Grand body does not possess the power and authority to revise and set aside the acts of its subordinates."

If the General Grand High Priest means by this, that a Grand body has the right, without appeal, to proceed to criticise the action of a subordinate body in relation to the discipline of its members and reverse that action, I do not hesitate to say, that his opinion can be controverted by hundreds of decisions of the most eminent Masons in the United States.

I admit, that in certain matters the governing body has the power to review and revoke, if it think proper, the doings of a subordinate, but not in the matter of discipline of its members, unless on appeal.

But, supposing that this Grand Chapter erred in this matter, it erred honestly, and proceeded with the honest and praiseworthy intention of carrying out to the very letter the resolution of the General Grand Chapter, and the General Grand High Priest must have been perfectly aware of that fact.

Was it, then, in consonance with the exalted dignity of the office he holds, to descend to a mere cavil on a question of Masonic practice?

Would it not have been more in accordance with that dignity had he said to your Grand High Priest, "I differ with you in opinion as to the powers which a governing body possesses over the acts of a subordinate, and therefore think you were wrong, although I believe you intended to do right, and I therefore advise your Grand Chapter to review its action."

How much better would such a reply have been, than the brief, curt, reply that came, "You have ignored and set at naught the action of the General Grand Chapter."

Our next proceeding was to endeavor to throw open the doors of this Grand Chapter to Potomac Chapter, and extend to her the olive branch. The manner in which that effort was received has already been stated.

The General Grand High Priest in his letter says: "From the best information which I have been able to obtain, I am constrained to believe that, had the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia accepted the second and third resolutions adopted by the General Grand Chapter, Potomac Chapter, No 8, would ere this have asked to be received in affiliation with said Grand Chapter, and also the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia would surrender its claim over the territory of the District of Columbia."

I will venture to say that there is not a single Royal Arch Mason within this jurisdiction, loyal to this Grand Chapter, who does not honestly and sincerely believe that this Grand body, in its action of November 30 last, did in good faith the very thing the General Grand High Priest above intimates that they did not do; that is, *they accepted the second and third resolutions*, so far as it was supposed those resolutions could, under the laws of Royal Arch Masonry, be accepted.

Certainly they intended to accept them; and if the General Grand High Priest, when he received the proceedings of this Grand Chapter of that date, took the same view of our action that he now takes, it was his duty, if he desired to promote harmony among us, to have at once made known that opinion to me, as the official head of Royal Arch Masonry here, and I should not have delayed a single moment to have called the Grand Chapter together, and made known his views, that, if possible, such action might have been taken as would have caused us to harmonize with him.

This he did not do, but, as is most evident by the above extract, lent a willing ear to the factions which are seeking to render us odious in his sight, adopted their views, and believed what, as they well knew, could not *under any circumstances* have happened; for we all know that the Grand Chapter of Maryland, long before any action took place in this Grand body, placed herself in such antagonism to us, in such an unmasonic and defiant attitude, that we could entertain no hope that any action of our own, short of a surrender of our jurisdiction to them, or our joining them in defying the power of the General Grand

Chapter, would have induced them to extend to the Royal Arch Masons of Washington any of the rights and privileges to which they are entitled. In this, thanks to Masonic propriety and Masonic justice, that Grand Chapter stands solitary and alone.

I have now done with the letter of the General Grand High Priest. It is evident that we are to expect nothing further from him than his "prayers," and we can only hope that they may be more available for harmony here than any *action* that he has yet taken.

We must now trust for justice to the enlightened community of Royal Arch Masons in the United States until the assembling of the General Grand Chapter in 1871, when we shall have an opportunity to be heard before that august tribunal, which has once done us justice, and I do not doubt will do it again.

We shall, at any rate, if I am correctly informed, be where the Grand Chapter that is seeking to usurp our jurisdiction, and its new coadjutor within the jurisdiction thus sought to be seized upon, cannot have a voice.

We have taken our position as a true and loyal constituent of the General Grand Chapter; there let us firmly stand, disregarding the missiles that are launched at us, performing all our duties faithfully, and conscious of our good intentions and of the rightfulness of every act we may perform, wait patiently for that day of triumph which shall be our sure reward ere many years shall have passed away.

I have received from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Tennessee a commission appointing me "representative of that Grand Chapter in the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia."

As this Grand Chapter has not adopted the representative system, I respectfully but earnestly recommend its adoption at this Convocation, and the acceptance of the appointment just mentioned, and that we reciprocate the compliment by the appointment of a representative to that most excellent Grand Chapter.

And now, my respected Companions, we are ready to proceed with the regular business of this Semi-Annual Convocation.

May harmony prevail in our counsels; may dignity and propriety mark all our acts; and may all that we do here tend to our own prosperity and to that of our beloved and honored institution throughout the world.

The Grand Secretary presented a petition from Companion A. Glass, and thirty-three other Companions, praying that a charter be granted empowering them to open and hold a Chapter at the Navy Yard, in the city of Washington, to be called Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, when on motion the prayer of the petitioners was granted.

The Grand Secretary presented a commission from the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee, appointing M. E. Companion B. B. French Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

The Committee appointed to revise the Constitution of the Grand Chapter submitted their report, the consideration of which was postponed to some future Convocation.

The Grand Secretary submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter, in order to establish a more intimate and fraternal intercourse between the Royal Arch Chapters of the world, do hereby adopt the system of representation by Masonic Grand bodies, by the appointment of representatives at or near the Grand Easts of Sister Grand Royal Arch Chapters, and by a cordial recognition of such worthy Companions as may be appointed within this Royal Arch jurisdiction, to represent other Grand Royal Arch Chapters here. And the Grand High Priest is hereby authorized to issue commissions under his hand and the seal of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter to such worthy Companions in other Royal Arch jurisdictions as he may deem proper.

Companion J. T. Brown, submitted the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, and Companions J. Daniels, C. W. Hancock, and J. Moody Smith were appointed a committee to consider the subject related to therein:

Whereas the name of J. Lee Adams appears upon the list of members returned to this Grand Chapter by LaLayette Chapter, No. 5, and whereas the petition of the said J. Lee Adams was rejected by Columbia Chapter at its convocation of April 17, 1867, and whereas said Columbia Chapter has never given its consent to the exaltation of said Adams, as required by the Constitution of this Grand Chapter; be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to investigate the circumstances of the case, and recommend to this Grand Chapter such action as they may deem necessary in the premises.

A bill from Messrs. French & Richardson, for one record book, amounting to \$13 50; also one from Evening Express, for advertising, amounting to \$5, were presented and ordered to be paid.

The Grand Chapter was then called off to a resumed Convocation to be held May 29, 1869.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *May 26, 1869.*

A Special Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at the Masonic Hall, Navy Yard, at 7½ o'clock p. m.

PRESENT:

M. E. Comp.	B. B. FRENCH.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Deputy G. High Priest.</i>
"	D. S. JONES.....	<i>as Grand King.</i>
"	W. MIDDLETON.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
E.	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>as Grand Cap. of the Host.</i>
"	E. B. MacGROTTY.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourn'r.</i>
"	W. M. COWAN.....	<i>as Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
"	E. FITZKIE.....	<i>as Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
"	C. T. NEUTZE.....	<i>as Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
"	J. A. DUREN.....	<i>as Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
"	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Deputy Grand High Priest L. G. Stephens, and

Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The Grand Chapter having been opened in ample form, the M. E. G. High Priest stated that he had called the Grand Chapter together for the purpose of instituting Washington Naval Chapter. The Grand Chapter then retired, and on being informed that Washington Naval Chapter was ready to receive them, returned to the hall, installed the officers, and instituted them into a regular Chapter, No. 6, on the record of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1869.

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met at Central Masonic Hall, at 7½ o'clock p. m., and resumed labor.

PRESENT.

R. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE,	as Grand High Priest.
"	C. W. HANCOCK,	as Grand King.
"	E. B. MACGROTTY,	as Grand Scribe.
"	N. D. LARNER,	Grand Secretary.
E.	J. T. BROWN,	as Grand Captain of the Host.
"	H. O. NOYES,	as Grand Principal Sojourner.
"	D. B. SEARLE,	as Grand R. A. Captain.
"	J. O. GOODRICH,	Grand Master of 3d Vail.
"	H. S. MERRILL,	Grand Master of 2d Vail.
"	D. S. JONES,	Grand Master of 1st Vail.
"	L. STODDARD,	Grand Janitor.

And representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Without the transaction of any business, the Grand Chapter was called to a resumed Convocation on Monday evening, May 31, 1869.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1869.

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met at Central Masonic Hall at 7½ o'clock p. m., and resumed labor.

PRESENT.

R. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE,	as Grand High Priest.
"	L. G. STEPHENS,	as Grand King.
"	C. W. HANCOCK,	as Grand Scribe.
"	N. D. LARNER,	Grand Secretary.
"	C. SMITH,	Grand Treasurer.
E.	J. DANIELS,	Grand Captain of the Host.
"	E. B. MACGROTTY,	Grand Principal Sojourner.
"	JOHN EDWIN MASON,	Grand R. A. Captain.
"	J. O. GOODRICH,	Grand Master of 3d Vail.
"	J. M. SMITH,	Grand Master of 2d Vail.
"	H. L. SHERWOOD,	as Grand Master of 1st Vail.
"	L. STODDARD,	Grand Janitor.

And representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Comp. Goodrich submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That hereafter a petition for a charter for a new Chapter shall not be considered by the Grand Chapter until the Grand Secretary shall be satisfied that the petitioners for the charter have paid all indebtedness to the Chapters to which they belong.

On motion, the sum of \$5 was appropriated to defray the expense of preparing charter for Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6.

The committee on revision of the work then proceeded to exemplify the Royal Arch degree, the Grand Visitor and Lecturer occupying the East. The committee having concluded the exemplification of the degree, their report, after amendment, was adopted, and the Grand Visitor and Lecturer directed to disseminate the same throughout the jurisdiction.

The Grand Chapter was then called to a resumed Convocation on June 30, at 7½ o'clock p. m.

N. D. LARNER,

Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *June 30, 1869.*

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met at Central Masonic Hall, at 7½ o'clock p. m., and resumed labor.

PRESENT.

R. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE,	.....as	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
"	J. W. GRIFFIN,	.....as	<i>Grand King.</i>
"	J. A. FOOS,	.....as	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	N. D. LARNER,	.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
E.	J. DANIELS,	.....	<i>Grand Can. of the Host.</i>
"	E. B. MACGROTTY,	.....	<i>Grand Prin. Sojourner.</i>
"	C. W. HANCOCK,	.....	<i>Grand Vis'r and Lecturer.</i>
"	JOHN EDWIN MASON,	.....	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
"	R. A. FISH,	.....as	<i>Grand Mas. of 3d Vail.</i>
"	E. FITZKIE,	.....as	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
"	H. O. NOYES,	.....as	<i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
"	L. STODDARD,	.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

The report of the committee appointed to revise the Constitution of the Grand Chapter was then brought before the Grand

Chapter for consideration. The report having been read by the Grand Secretary, after the adoption of several amendments to the report, the Constitution was adopted, and the Grand Secretary authorized to have three hundred copies of the same printed.

A bill from the proprietors of the *Sunday Gazette* for advertising, amounting to 75 cents, was presented and ordered to be paid.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in due form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 8, 1869.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, corner of D and Ninth streets, at 7½ o'clock p. m.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	B. B. FRENCH,	G. H. Priest.
R. E. "	J. LOCKIE,	D. G. H. Priest.
" "	H. A. WHALLON,	G. King.
" "	W. MIDDLETON,	G. Scribe.
" "	N. D. LARNER,	G. Secretary.
" "	C. SMITH	G. Treasurer.
E. "	J. DANIELS,	G. C. of the Host.
" "	E. B. MACGROTTY,	G. P. Sojourner.
" "	C. W. HANCOCK,	G. Vis. and Lecturer.
" "	JOHN EDWIN MASON,	G. R. A. Captain.
" "	J. W. GRIFFIN,	as G. M. of 3d Vail.
" "	J. M. SMITH,	G. M. of 2d Vail.
" "	D. S. JONES,	G. M. of 1st Vail.
" "	L. STODDARD,	G. Janitor.

OTHER MEMBERS.

P. G. H. Priest, B. B. French, J. E. F. Holmead.

P. D. G. H. Priest, L. G. Stephens.

P. G. King, A. Glass, C. W. Hancock.

Of Columbia Chapter, No. 1—J. T. Brown, H. P.; G. D. Patten, Jr., K.; H. S. Merrill, S.; P. H. Priests, L. G. Stephens, J. Lockie, B. B. French.

Of Washington Chapter, No. 2—R. A. Fish, H. P.; G. B. Clark, K.; W. H. Earle, S.; P. H. Priests, J. E. F. Holmead, W. Middleton, A. T. Longley, J. Moody Smith.

Of Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3—J. Daniels, H. P.; J. W. Griffin, K.; S. Baxter, S.; P. H. Priests, C. W. Hancock, D. B. Searle.

Of Eureka Chapter, No. 4—I. L. Johnson, H. P.; A. Buchly, K.; P. H. Priests, C. Smith, E. B. MacGrotty.

Of La Fayette Chapter, No. 5—N. D. Larner, H. P.; D. S. Jones, K.; C. E. Coon, S.; P. H. Priest, N. P. Chipman.

Of Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6—A. Glass, H. P.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

The minutes of previous Convocations having been read and approved, the M. E. Grand High Priest delivered the following address:

COMPANIONS: Another period for the assembling of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia in annual conclave has arrived, and again are we permitted to meet with full numbers.

Nothing has occurred during the past year to interrupt the harmony and prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction. Death has not invaded our ranks, and the blessings and mercies of the Supreme Being seem to have been extended to us in a remarkable manner; for all which it behooveth us to lift up our voices in thanksgiving to God, even our God, for his loving kindnesses to us and watchful care over our destinies.

This Grand Chapter was formed on the 23d of May, 1867. Three subordinate Chapters constituted it, and two more were soon after added. The tabular statement of membership in November following showed four hundred and ninety-eight members.

Six Chapters now appear on our roll of constituents; "Washington Naval Chapter" having been added to the list during the past year.

At our Semi-Annual Convocation in May last, I reported that I had issued my dispensation for the formation of that Chapter, and, on petition of the Companions composing it to this Grand body, a charter was ordered to be issued. It was issued accordingly, and on the 26th day of May I attended at its hall, in the Lodge room of Naval Lodge, accompanied by the Grand officers, and constituted it in regular and ancient form.

I am happy to say that prosperity has attended it, and it bids fair to assume a high rank for its good discipline and good work among the Chapters of our jurisdiction.

There are now in this Royal Arch jurisdiction 696 affiliated Royal Arch Masons, making a gain, since November, 1867, of 198, and our numbers are steadily increasing.

Could a greater state of prosperity have been hoped for even by the most sanguine?

Not one single cause of complaint has been made to me during the year, nor have I heard of any want of harmony throughout our jurisdiction.

Companions, in view of all that we have passed through since May, 1867, we may, with just pride, call the attention of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, which so nobly sustained us against the fiercest and most unwarrantable opposition, and of those sister Grand Chapters throughout the Union who have so cheerfully and cordially welcomed us as one in the beautiful constellation of sisters, to our present enviable position, and ask them if they now

have any misgivings as to our ability to assume the position of a respectable, useful, and worthy Grand Chapter?

I have, on a former occasion, given you very fully and at length my views regarding the unfortunate position into which Potomac Chapter, within this jurisdiction, has precipitated herself. Most unfortunate is it for her, and unpleasant is it for us, that an estrangement should exist between the two bodies, which severs all fraternal communion between them.

This Grand Chapter has not been backward in its honorable and fraternal efforts to so reconcile the difficulty as to restore the harmony which for so many years existed. A committee was appointed to receive any overtures that Potomac Chapter might think it proper to make; and it was appointed, too, after an expression by this Grand Chapter of the very kindest and best feelings of "unity and fraternity" on its part, and there was, it is believed, a unanimous desire that something might result from the appointment of that committee which would bring Potomac Chapter to its natural and proper position as a constituent member of this Grand Chapter.

But the olive branch thus cordially and sincerely extended Potomac Chapter declined to receive, and elected to throw herself into the embraces of a foreign Grand Chapter.

While we regretted the choice thus made by Potomac Chapter, we were forced to accede to the position she had assumed, and bid her go in peace, in the full belief that she would, in time, realize the impropriety of her position, and voluntarily seek to return to the maternal roof.

This Grand body cannot, and will not, compromise its dignity by any further overtures to Potomac Chapter; and henceforth she must be the initiator of any attempt that may be made to restore the harmony that never should have been broken up.

Our doors are still open, and those brethren with whom we so often meet on the tessellated pavement and beneath the starry canopy, in peace and love, would, as we sincerely believe, find far greater satisfaction within the vails of our Royal Arch sanctuary, where the well-established laws of jurisdictional power assign to them their proper place, than in wandering away from us, and endeavoring to exercise powers and duties, as Royal Arch Masons, entirely incongruous to the position assigned them by the General Grand Chapter.

I have already said more than I intended on this subject, and it must now rest until Potomac Chapter thinks proper to revive it.

I need not go into any lengthened discussion of the status of Royal Arch Masonry around us, because the subject is in better hands than mine, and an interesting and able report will be laid before you by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

With a wish and a hope that Royal Arch Masonry may go on as harmoniously for the coming year as it has for the one which is past, and invoking the best blessings of Heaven upon you all, I close this brief address.

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted the following report, which was received and the resolution contained therein adopted:

To the M. E. G. H. Priest and Companions

of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the D. C.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred by the M. E. G. H. Priest a resolution adopted by LaFayette R. A. Chapter, No. 5, requesting to be informed "whether substitutes shall be used in conferring the R. A. degree," beg to report the following resolution as embodying their view, and they respectfully recommend its adoption by the Grand Chapter:

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter disapproves the use of substitutes in conferring any of the degrees of Capitular Masonry, and hereby prohibits its practice in this jurisdiction.

N. P. CHIPMAN,
J. DANIELS.

The Committee on Correspondence, through its chairman, Companion John Edwin Mason, submitted the following report, which was received, adopted, and ordered to be published with the proceedings:

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia:

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence respectfully report, that the proceedings have been received from Grand Secretary Larner from the following Grand Chapters: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Canada, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin.

We received last year the proceedings from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Kentucky, but they have not been received the past year, owing probably to the fact that they have not yet been completed or printed.

These make every Grand Chapter in the United States complete. We are now in fraternal communication with every Grand Chapter in the United States.

Having been duly recognized by every Grand Chapter, with the salutations of the right-hand of fellowship, we fraternally request every Grand Chapter to drop the name of "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" from the title of the Grand Chapter of MARYLAND. With unparelled prosperity blessing the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction, and peace and harmony reigning supreme, we extend the Masonic palm to all our sister Grand Chapters, and kindly hail them with the compliments of the season.

ALABAMA.

The forty-second Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held at Montgomery, December 8, 1863, fifty-three Chapters being represented. This Grand Chapter has ninety-five subordinates, with a total membership in good standing of two thousand five hundred and twenty-three. Capitular Masonry is powerful in this jurisdiction, and is increasing as fast as good material seeks admission, one hundred and seventy-seven having been exalted the past year.

Grand High Priest Brown delivered an able address, in which he dwells on the fact that he attended the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, but not as a member, as Alabama does not recognize the General Grand Chapter. His Grand Chapter did not send him there, and he does not tell us who did. He submitted the following answers, involving Masonic law and jurisprudence, to questions that had been referred for his decision:

"I have had the following questions submitted, to which I have returned answers as follows:

"*Question.* Is it right to use a substitute to make up a class?

"*Answer.* It is not. See By-Laws of Grand Chapter, art. III, sec. 8.

"*Q.* Is it lawful to receive a petition for the degrees unaccompanied with the fee?

"*A.* It is not. See art. IV, sec. 5, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter.

"*Q.* In case a petition is received unaccompanied with the fee, and the degrees conferred, who is responsible?

"*A.* The Secretary, if he announced the petition in due form. If ordered to receive it, and does so without protest, he is still liable. But if he objects, then the presiding officer would be liable; and if not paid, would be subject to discipline.

"*Q.* Is it lawful and in accordance with Chapter usage to confer the degrees on ministers of the gospel free of charge?

"*A.* It is not. The Constitution requires that the fee shall always accompany the petition; and no credit given.

"*Q.* Can a Chapter Past Master sit in a Master Mason's Lodge, the Senior Warden presiding, who has not received the Past Master's degree?

"*A.* He can, without any scruples of conscience whatever. The Past Master's degree received in a Chapter confers no privileges other than those he is entitled to receive in the Chapter.

"*Q.* A petition for the degrees in a Chapter being rejected, how long should the candidate wait before petitioning again?

"*A.* Held that he should wait twelve months, unless the objection is withdrawn. That is the rule in the Blue Lodge. Our Constitution is silent on the subject, and as this question is often asked, I would recommend that the Grand Chapter settle it definitely.

"*Q.* Does suspension in the Blue Lodge suspend in the Chapter?

"*A.* It does, for it is held that a Chapter is entitled to know all that transpires in the bodies below.

"*Q.* Is it necessary to take any action in the Chapter after suspension in the Blue Lodge?

"*A.* It is not, more than to note the fact, for suspension in the Blue Lodge suspends in all the bodies above.

"*Q.* Would it be proper to admit a companion to a Chapter while he was under suspension in the Blue Lodge?

"*A.* Certainly not. It would be just as improper as it would be to receive the petition of a Master Mason for the degrees in the Chapter while he was under the Masonic censure of suspension in the Blue Lodge.

"*Q.* Is an appeal from the decision of the High Priest or presiding officer of the Chapter allowable in any case?

"A. Held that it is not, unless the presiding officer sees fit to waive his right and submit to the decision of the Chapter. An appeal may be made to the Grand Chapter, or during recess to the Grand High Priest."

There is a great deal of truth in what he utters in the following gentle admonition:

"Early history teaches us that all that is now taught in Capitular and Cryptic Masonry was originally taught in 'the first three degrees, including the Holy Royal Arch; but we have now, by the incisions which have been made, three distinct bodies of Ancient Craft Masonry, which, with the addition of the Templar Order, make four in all, moving in harmony. Of the propriety of these incisions, it is not my purpose now to speak; but among the immense mass of Masonic literature now being published, and the strong desire for the accumulation of side degrees, now named as 'Rites,' I fear there is much that is calculated to injure and interfere with the teachings of our ancient Order and bring it into disrepute; and many who profess great proficiency in these side, or what are sometimes called higher degrees, can scarcely make themselves known as Ancient Craft Masons."

Companion Palmer J. Pillans, Chairman of the Special Committee on the District of Columbia, made the following report, which was adopted:

"The committee to whom was referred the claim of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia to recognition, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

"That as the difficulties and the causes which led thereto, between the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and the General Grand Chapter, have been fully set forth by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, your committee deem it unnecessary further to consume the time of this Grand Chapter therewith, but refer the Companions to that report for information. Your committee, however, after a careful consideration of all the facts, are fully convinced of the propriety of this Grand Chapter extending to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia the right-hand of fellowship, and of giving to her a cordial greeting at the family board. Your committee having just been advised that all differences have been healed, by a recent action on the part of the General Grand Chapter, deem it proper to desist from any further expression of opinion, but express the supreme satisfaction they feel at the happy termination of what appeared to them a disgraceful embroilment among those whom they were wont to think most worthy Companions. Your committee remember that 'a soft word turneth away wrath,' and that silence often prevents difficulty.

"Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Chapter cordially extends to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia recognition and the right-hand of fellowship.

"Fraternally submitted,

P. J. PILLANS,

"Chairman."

We extend to Alabama our cordial and fraternal greetings, and invite any of our fraters in that State, when visiting the national capital, to witness the work we send up for inspection in this city, and beg them to try us by the overseer's

square. There is not a jurisdiction in the United States more prosperous than ours, or where harmony more truly exists among the workmen.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted an excellent report, showing the result of much labor, and reflecting credit on the writer. That fraternal and charitable spirit that should ever characterize such reports he evinces to a remarkable degree, and in this respect is in contrast to the fiery and unmasonic spirit sometimes shown by such compilers of reports on foreign correspondence. Masonry has suffered in the South during the late war, and shared in the general prostration that followed the close of the war, and it is natural that a feeling of resentment should follow. With rare exceptions, such has not been the case, and we note the fact after two years' careful perusal of the proceedings of Grand Chapters in southern States with a degree of pleasure and satisfaction that words cannot describe. This chivalrous and truly Masonic conduct has won for our southern Companions an exalted esteem in the hearts of Masons everywhere. With tear-dimmed eyes we take our southern Companions by the hand, and with throbbing hearts we renew the fraternal compliments of the days of olden time. The tender emotions of our hearts make us feel the deep realities of a Mason's obligation. Even if all around us may be swollen with passion, indignant with prejudice, and covered with bigotry, we can turn to MASONRY as the oasis in the desert, where sectional strife and partizanship never enter. Over the entrance to every Masonic Hall should be placed the motto, *Omnia vincit amor—non nomina stultorum parietibus hærent.*

In his report on Foreign Correspondence, Companion Pillans opens his report on the District of Columbia with this fraternal salutation:

"We gladly hail the advent of this new star in the R. A. firmament, and though its rise has been accompanied, and partly obscured, by storm clouds, yet its light is steady and brilliant, and promises to give great assistance to the weary in their travel through the rough and rugged paths which lead to the great and glorious work, and to cheer many who may feel weary and faint by the way.

"Storms have been withstood, clouds have been riven, and the star shines brilliantly out."

ARKANSAS.

The Nineteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas was held at Little Rock, November 12, 1868, twenty-one Chapters answering roll-call. Forty-five Chapters are reported in the State, but no annual returns appear from thirteen of these.

There is evidently more prosperity in Arkansas among the Royal Arch Craft than in some of the southern States over which the devastations of war were more marked. They have both our sympathies and congratulations. We are glad to see our southern sisters once more place their annual offerings on the altar of Capitular Masonry.

The address of Grand High Priest Luke E. Barber is one of the best written addresses found in the proceedings of all our State Grand Chapters. There are

so many noble sentences in the address, that we cannot help extracting the opening paragraphs, as follows:

"Having passed to another stage of that rough and rugged road, over which we are journeying to life's end, we meet again, as at a halting-place of rest and refreshment, to commune together in relation to our common interests, and renew our vigor and strength for a further effort in advancing the noble Order under whose banner we contend against ignorance, intolerance—vice in all its forms. That portion of life's journey over which we have just passed has been, I doubt not, peculiarly rough and rugged to many of you, not alone in the personal hardships of the present, nor in doubts or hopelessness as to the future; but more especially, as Royal Arch Masons, in witnessing the listlessness and apathy of Companions, their disregard of the teachings of the Order, **their** neglect of the symbols inscribed upon the banners of our watchmen; instead of cultivating friendship, indulging in enmity, ill will, or indifference; instead of union, discord and variance; instead of fervency and zeal in discharge of duty, carelessness, apathy, slothfulness; instead of purity of life and conduct, sensuality, self-indulgence, uncharitableness. And perhaps some of us now here present might find in our own experiences somewhat of this to regret. For such violation of Masonic teaching no excuse can be found in personal disappointments, nor in the trying struggles of life. It may be that these are sent to prove, reclaim and purify, and their effect should be to incite us to a more zealous discharge of duty, and infuse into our hearts a more enlarged charity, embracing not only Companions and brethren, but our fellow man. Let us hope, however, that the number of those thus forgetful of duty, or choosing rather to walk in the dark ways of the world, than by the light of Masonic instruction, are but few, compared to that noble band whose life is squared by Masonic measure; whose pathway is always illumined by truth and virtue; whose charity or love is bounded by no sect or association; whose eyes are often turning from the fading vanities of life towards that pure white veil, within which purity of life and rectitude of conduct alone can afford a hope of entrance. And, Companions, let us all, by a full and free interchange of Masonic thought, endeavor to impress upon each his duty to others. We are, in a sense, our brother's keepers. If we see him going wrong, it is our duty to warn; if he be in error, to instruct; if he be slothful and indifferent, to rouse and animate him to a just appreciation of Masonic obligation; if he enter upon the paths of vice, to admonish, reprove, entreat him to return from the ways that lead to degradation, infamy, and death."

Grand High Priest Barber says he attended the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, and writes as follows concerning it: "Of the hospitality of the Companions at St. Louis and the courtesy of the City Council, of the pleasantness and agreeability of the visit, much might be said; but of the work done, I have little to report; of Masonic instruction received, nothing."

The Grand Chapter instructed its delegates to St. Louis to vote against the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, giving itself some little authority. Arkansas delegates did as ordered, and reported that said amendments were voted down. So, they seem to be in favor of suck-

ing the life-blood from the General Grand Chapter, and allowing it an existence without blood or muscle.

The following reports from the "Committee on Masonic Law" are interesting to this latitude:

"The Committee on Masonic Law and Usage submit the following report upon the various subjects referred to them:

"On the resolution instructing the committee to inquire and report 'what remedies exist in order to compel the payment of dues where delinquents have become charter members of a new Chapter,' we have considered the questions submitted, and report:

"That the question expressed in different words is this: Where members of a Chapter sign a petition for a dispensation for a new Chapter, and the dispensation is granted, and followed by a charter, by which such petitioners become members of the new Chapter, and remain in arrears for dues to the Chapter to which they formerly belonged, how is it that Chapter to force the collection of such dues? It cannot suspend them for non-payment of dues, because they have become members of the new Chapter. Your committee think that the Chapter to which they are in default for dues should send their accounts to the new Chapter, and it should require the delinquent to pay them, under the usual discipline and suspension for non-payment or refusal.

"Upon the resolution of Companion DuVal, instructing your committee to inquire and report upon the following question: 'Must a Companion Royal Arch Mason be affiliated with a blue or symbolic Lodge, in order to retain full fellowship in his Chapter?'—we have considered the question, and report as follows:

"Under an edict of this Grand Chapter, a Master Mason must be a member, in good standing, of some Lodge when he is elected to take the Chapter degrees. After he is exalted, his Chapter should not inquire into his relation to blue Masonry, further than to ascertain that he is not suspended or expelled, leaving the blue craft to deal with the question of his affiliation or non-affiliation. If he happens to die in good standing in his Chapter, but unaffiliated with any symbolic Lodge, the Chapter would bury him according to its own ritual."

During this session of the Grand Chapter it balloted for three Master Masons, elected them, and then conferred the four degrees of the Chapter upon them, and then passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary be ordered to certify to the Chapters respectively, under whose jurisdiction Companions A. D. Smith, Charles F. Penzel, and Joe W. Boossert reside, that they have been regularly exalted to the sublime degree of Holy Royal Arch in this Grand Chapter, and that each Companion pay to his Chapter the fees prescribed by its by-laws."

This proceeding has been denounced all over the United States as illegal, unmasonic, and outrageous. We echo the same verdict from the banks of the Potomac.

Companion Samuel W. Williams, chairman, submitted the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Chapters—the report covering fifty pages. He shows a lack of information about our

Grand Chapter, and says the General Grand Chapter will settle the question; although that body *had settled the question* two months before this convocation, when this report was made, yet Companion Williams had not got the news. Stage-coaches must run very slow through Arkansas. The rest of the world, that has forgotten how they look, remember them as

"Relics of the ancient ages,
When the people rode in stages."

There are some very good things in the report of Companion Williams. In reviewing Minnesota, he copies what the Grand High Priest says, as follows:

"He condemns the mode of conferring the Past Master's degree in that State, and says that important parts of it are omitted under the idea claimed, that Chapters have not the right to make a Past Master *in fact*, that the degree is conferred only as a prerequisite to higher degrees, and says: 'If, however, we have a right to assume jurisdiction over part of a degree, why not over all? Yes, why not over all? Let us expunge the Past Master's degree from Capitular Masonry altogether, or else make it what it was when we took it and the Royal Arch degree from the Master's degree, and either claim for Capitular Masonry its true rank throughout, or else let the Mark degree go back to the Fellow Craft, where it originally belonged; and let the Past Master and Royal Arch be as it once was, an appendage to the Master's degree. And let us abolish our Chapters, as an innovation upon the original plan of Masonry. We see no half way ground. When the Past Master and Royal Arch degrees were originally conferred, before the formation of Chapters, a dispensation was granted to a candidate, actually, yet informally, to pass the chair, whereby he became a Past Master *in fact*, as a prerequisite for the Royal Arch degree, and he must now be a Past Master *in fact*, or else we are innovaters, and had better retrace our steps."

He copies also what the Grand High Priest of Kansas says on this subject, and then gives his own opinion, as follows:

"'One subject has elicited expressions in the private circles of the Chapter, but has not yet, so far as I am informed, been brought officially before the Order. It is the propriety of continuing to confer the order, or make, in Chapters, what are called Past Masters. I am not advised when, where, or why, or how this episode was first regarded a capitular degree.' After stating that it is simply the installation ceremony of a Master, he says: 'But this disjointing of the chain which now occurs between the Mark and the Most Excellent degrees is like the cucumber that grew within the bottle's bulb:

'Tis something neither strange nor rare,
But only wondrous how 'twas gotten there."

"'Yet, could I for a moment think that to remove this fungus from its place would be an innovation, I would oppose it to the last. But I suppose that, like Paul Pry, it just stepped in, and hopes it don't intrude. But being recognized throughout our general jurisdiction, I would not that one local body should disturb it; but I ask such attention as will bring the subject up in proper form before the General Grand Convocation, which will meet next fall.' Suppose it decides to expunge the degree, what will you do with those Masonic bodies, in this country and Europe, which will adhere to it? The truth is, our American

organization is the innovation. Originally, we are informed, the Royal Arch degree was an honorary degree, conferred upon installed Masters only, afterwards extended to those installed by dispensation, and of course the Past degree was a prerequisite, and was conferred in a convocation of Royal Arch Masons; for which reasons a meeting of a Chapter is yet called a convocation, notwithstanding it is not now a convocation or accidental calling together, but a regularly existing and permanent organization. In England, since Chapters have been organized, they neither require nor recognize the Mark or Most Excellent degrees, we believe; and in Scotland, the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter both exercise jurisdiction over the Mark degree, and neither have or recognize the Most Excellent. That is an American plant, a *Webb*-footed bird."

CALIFORNIA.

The Fifteenth Annual Convocation was held at San Francisco, October 19, 1868, thirty-two of her thirty-five Chapters being represented. The Golden State reports Capitalar Masonry to be very prosperous there. Grand High Priest Titus presented a brief address. Grand Secretary L. C. Owen wrote and presented the report on foreign correspondence. He does not acknowledge the receipt of any proceedings from us, so we presume that Wells, Fargo & Co., distributed them somewhere on the plains last year. We trust the new Pacific railroad will insure their reception this year.

The following resolution was adopted, and marks out a singular course indeed:

"*Resolved*, That when, after an election of an applicant to receive the Chapter degrees, and he has received the Mark degree, an objection to his advancement is made at any time by a member, such objection shall be referred to a committee, with power to inquire into the cause thereof, who shall at the next stated meeting (unless further time be given) report thereon; and upon the reception of such report, if no cause for the objection has been assigned, or if the cause assigned be, in the opinion of two-thirds of the members present, not a valid and Masonic one, the Chapter may confer the degree in the same manner as if no objection had been made."

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported the following, which was adopted:

"Your committee, to whom was referred the questions as to the right of a member of a Chapter to withdraw, who refused to record his mark, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report, that the Grand Chapter having provided that every Mark Master must, within six months after his admission, select his mark and record the same in a Book of Marks kept by the Chapter for that purpose, a member who refuses to record his mark is acting in disobedience of one of the regulations of the Grand Chapter, all of which it is his bounden duty to obey, and whilst so refusing is liable to Masonic censure. He is consequently not entitled to withdraw until he has purged himself of his disobedience by complying with the established regulation."

CANADA.

Our Companions in Her Majesty's dominions seem to be flourishing and the Chapters enjoying a wonderful degree of prosperity. It is very gratifying to

see this exhibition of success, and we congratulate our Companions in Canada that they have no General Grand Chapter there to cause them trouble, and no General Grand High Priest to issue ridiculous edicts.

We cannot ascertain whether there are Chapters existing now in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and if so, where they obtained their charters. Do they still report to the Grand Chapter of Canada? Will our kind Companion who writes the excellent reports on foreign correspondence be so good as to inform us?

CONNECTICUT.

The Annual Convocation took place in Hartford, May 12, 1868, twenty-seven Chapters answering roll-call. Among the Royal Craft in Connecticut unexampled prosperity and harmony reign. Of the twenty-seven Chapters in the State, three bear the name of Washington, two of Franklin, two of Eureka, and two Jerusalem. This multiplying the same name in the State is too bad. We will guarantee to manufacture good names for these Chapters, if they will consent to change them. The Grand Chapter ought to vote that two or more Chapters in the State shall *not* bear the same name. The list of good names for Chapters is by no means exhausted.

The reports show a membership of 3,066 in the State, with 374 exaltations the past year.

The clearest statement of our case, put in the fewest words, we have ever seen, is the following report, which was adopted:

"Your committee, to whom was referred the matter of the organization of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, beg leave to report, that they have examined the facts of the case so far as the same have been published, and that the question presents itself to their minds briefly as follows:

"If the territory of the District of Columbia was a part of the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, then the consent of the said Grand Chapter was all the consent necessary for the legal institution of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

"If, however, the District of Columbia was 'unoccupied territory' and subject to the original jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, either prior to or by the act of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, then the consent of the M. E. General Grand High Priest was all the consent necessary for its legal formation. In the case before us the consent not only of the Grand Chapter, but also of the General Grand High Priest, was obtained.

"It needs no argument to prove that these consents having been once given and *acted upon*, and a living sovereign body having been lawfully created, there is no power residing anywhere either to withdraw such consents or to impair or interfere with the sovereign rights of such Grand Chapter.

"Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the resolution reported by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, as follows:

"Whereas, at a convention of delegates from all the Royal Arch Chapters in the District of Columbia, working under charters from the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, (four Chapters in all,) duly called and held in the city of Washington, on the 6th day of April, 1867, a

Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia was duly organized, a Constitution adopted, and proper officers elected; and

"Whereas the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia did, by a deliberate vote, consent to the separation of the said Chapters from her jurisdiction; and

"Whereas, on the 23d day of May, 1867, the said Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia was duly instituted and its officers were properly installed:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Connecticut, having full confidence in the integrity and Masonic skill of the Companions who have been selected to govern and superintend the labors of the said Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, and believing the said Grand Chapter to be properly and carefully instituted, does hereby acknowledge and recognize the said Grand Chapter as the governing head of Capitular Masonry within the said District of Columbia; and we do cordially extend to the said Grand Chapter the right hand of fellowship, and receive her as a beloved member of the great American family of Royal Arch Masonry."

"And your committee further recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Chapter of Connecticut, having seen no cause for a change of opinion with reference to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, does hereby reaffirm the resolutions adopted at our Annual Convocation, in the year 1866.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"LUKE A. LOCKWOOD,

"CHARLES W. STEARNS,

"C. M. HATCH,

Committee."

Three of the most distinguished Masons in Connecticut are on this committee. We all remember how gallantly Companion Charles W. Stearns, who appears on this committee, battled for what was right on the committee appointed in the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis. His record in the Grand Chapter of Connecticut, and in the General Grand Chapter of the United States, shows how thoroughly he understands our case. We hope to see this eminent Companion here in Washington at some future day, and greet him fraternally beneath our Royal Arch.

Companion William Storer presented a fine report on foreign correspondence, in which he also takes strong ground in favor of the legality of our Grand Chapter.

We have been patiently waiting for the report for 1869, but have not yet received it, and fear our old friend, Grand Secretary Wheeler, has forgotten us this year.

DELAWARE.

We have received the "Proceedings of a Convention of Royal Arch Masons" that formed a Grand Chapter in Delaware, on the 20th of January, 1869, at

Dover. Representatives were present from "Washington and LaFayette Chapter, No. 1, at Wilmington; Temple Chapter, No. 2, at Milford; Hope Chapter, No. 4, at Georgetown; and St. John's Chapter at Wilmington." If we are rightly informed, all but the last-named Chapter received their original charters from Pennsylvania, before the Grand Chapter of Delaware was first formed, many years since. St. John's Chapter, at Wilmington, was organized by G.: G.: H.: P.: Lewis, in December, 1867, supposing that no Grand Chapter then existed in Delaware. These Chapters proceeded to form a Grand Chapter under the following authority.

"OFFICE OF THE GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST

"OF THE GENERAL G.: R.: A.: CHAPTER OF THE U. S. OF A.,

"NEW YORK, January 9, 1869.

'To all whom it may concern, and especially to the four Royal Arch Chapters in the State of Delaware, working under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, greeting:

"Application having been made to me, as General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, for permission to form a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Delaware, and believing it to be for the best interests of Royal Arch Masonry in said State that a Grand Chapter should be constituted therein:

"Now, therefore, I, James M. Austin, General Grand High Priest, etc., by the power and authority in me vested by the Constitution of the said General Grand Chapter, do, by these presents, authorize and empower the four subordinate Chapters in the said State of Delaware to assemble in convention, by their proper representatives, viz: the High Priests, Kings, and Scribes thereof, at some convenient time and place, for the purpose of forming a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Delaware; the said several Chapters having first given their consent thereto, and having received due and timely notice of the time and place of the holding of said convention.

"And I would recommend that said convention be held in the town of Dover, in the said State of Delaware, upon the 20th day of January, 1869, at such hour as may be most convenient for the Companions thus assembled.

"And I do hereby designate and appoint the R. E. Companion Daniel C. Godwin, of Milford, as the person to promulgate this my edict, and to notify all the Chapters in the State of Delaware of the time and place of holding said convention.

"Given under my hand and private seal, at the place and on the day and year first above written.

"JAMES M. AUSTIN,

"General Grand High Priest, &c."

This convention proceeded to elect Daniel C. Godwin, G.: H.: P.:; Willis Holden, D.: G.: H.: P.:; George W. Stone, G.: K.:; Jacob Moore, G.: S.:; and General A. T. A. Torbert, Grand Secretary, with the other elective and appointed officers. G.: G.: H.: P.: James M. Austin was present, and opened the new-born Grand Chapter in ample form, and installed the officers, and then withdrew from the same, and started for home before further business was done. A constitution was adopted, which is printed in this pamphlet. A seal was

selected, and the usual committees were appointed, and the Grand Chapter was then closed. Nothing appears in this pamphlet respecting the singular and unhappy condition of the Royal Craft anterior to the organization of this new Grand Chapter. It is known, by the edicts and acts promulgated all over the United States by G. : G. : H. : P. : Lewis in 1868, that serious trouble existed there, but few seemed to know the nature of it.

In order to get the whole history of this unfortunate affair, we have written and called upon the principal parties interested in the matter *pro* and *con.*, and will here give a fair, candid statement of both sides of the controversy, so far as information has come to hand. We have written G. : K. : George W. Stone and Grand Secretary General Torbert for information, but they have never been heard from.

From other parties we learn that several Companions in Wilmington, in December, 1867, petitioned G. : G. : H. : P. : Lewis for a dispensation, and gave the information that no Grand Chapter existed in Delaware, stating that it had died or rather ceased to meet. The Grand High Priest, George W. Chaytor, denied this, and showed that one was in existence, and that he was the G. : H. : P. : But G. : G. : H. : P. : Lewis evidently took the *ex parte* evidence, as he did in the case of the District of Columbia, and granted the dispensation.

This action produced fierce and unmasonic language, and the edicts flew back and forth between the contending parties until the dispute grew warm, whether a Grand Chapter existed, and if so, *how many*. The act of G. : G. : H. : P. : Lewis seemed to cause all the trouble, just as his acts did in the District of Columbia. As the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter forbids it to fix the status of State Grand Chapters, G. : G. : H. : P. : Lewis usurped the power as G. : G. : H. : P. :, which the body over which he presided never assumed, since its teeth were drawn, and all its power over Grand Chapters taken away. It seems to be exactly the same blunder he committed in reference to the District of Columbia. He assumed power that neither he nor the General Grand Chapter possessed. Trouble was the natural consequence of this unwarranted interference, as may be seen by the brief history of it, as given by Dr. Chaytor, G. : H. : P. : of the Grand Chapter.

In reply to inquiries about the matter, he writes as follows:

"WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, Oct. 29, 1869.

"JOHN EDWIN MASON, M. D.

"DEAR SIR AND COMPANION: Yours of yesterday reached me this morning. I cheerfully comply with your wishes, but must do so very briefly, as my professional cares draw at this time very heavily upon my time.

"Royal Arch Masonry here prior to 1818 was controlled by Pennsylvania, from which jurisdiction our Chapters held warrants. A convention of the Chapters was held at Dover, in January, 1818, at which meeting six of the seven Chapters were represented. They determined to form a Grand Chapter, adopted a constitution, and elected Archibald Hamilton, Esq., G. : H. : Priest. Things moved on smoothly until about 1830, when the Morgan excitement told heavily. In 1841 there were but *three* Chapters in the State, and these in a very feeble condition. The Grand Chapter held its convocations very irregularly, and had been so doing for so many years, that it was regarded as a *custom*. Some eight

years prior to 1859 there was a convocation, without any regular notice, and Dr. James P. Lofland was elected G. . H. . P. .; John R. McFee, Esq., G. . D. . H. . P. .; and Daniel C. Godwin, Grand Secretary. Several years after the death of Companion Lofland, Companion McFee had the Grand Chapter convened at Dover, in January, 1859, the first regular meeting since I had been a Royal Arch Mason. I was exalted in 1841. Several years prior to this Grand Convocation, I had been High Priest of the Chapter in this city, and consequently in a position to know of such calls. I attended the meeting, and at the solicitation of the Companions accepted the office of Grand High Priest, and was regularly installed. A Convocation was called for 1860, but, upon my arrival at Dover, I found no one except the Grand Secretary.

"The war prevented our holding any meeting. It would have been useless to have made a call.

"The Chapter in this city was suspended by me for irregular and rebellious conduct, and in the close of 1867 I was informed that Mr. John L. Lewis, G. . G. . H. . P. ., had placed Delaware under the protection of New Jersey, and that a number of Masons were going to Trenton and Baltimore to take the Royal Arch degrees. I wrote Mr. Lewis upon the subject, (I think two letters,) but received *no acknowledgment*. He issued a dispensation to certain parties, not one of them Delaware-made Companions and some non-residents, to organize a Chapter, and I issued the paper marked No. 1. At the time this dispensation was issued, a call for a meeting of the Grand Chapter of Delaware was published in the papers.

"The call for the meeting of the Grand Chapter was made for the 20th of January, 1868, and for a description of that meeting I refer you to paper No. 2.

"My circular letter not producing the effect I hoped, I issued paper No. 3. The well-disposed Companions were deterred from openly accepting my friendly offer, owing to the turbulent conduct of the few vicious members, backed by the officers of the General Grand Chapter.

"At the meeting of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter at St. Louis, last year, a protest was presented and for reasons best known to the *parties*, not published with the proceedings, although it was referred to a committee and reported upon. If the treatment extended to this State by the General Grand High Priest is Masonic justice, as understood and taught by those in authority at present, I think the sooner we return to the path of our forefathers the better for present and future generations. (Protest marked No. 4.)

"My authority and the authority of the Grand Chapter were acknowledged up to the Convocation of January 20, 1868. A few days prior to that meeting I received a petition from Temple Chapter, No. 2, at Milford, praying for a dispensation to enable them to elect officers, so that they might be represented in the Grand Chapter. This petition was signed by Daniel C. Godwin and the other members. The election was held, and Companion John R. McFee, D. . G. . H. . P. ., installed them on the morning of the 20th, the day the Grand Chapter was to meet. Daniel C. Godwin was elected High Priest upon authority of that dispensation. Mr. Lewis, in his address to the General Grand Chapter, says: 'Accompanying the dispensation (I presume he means *petition*) was a memorial stating that the Grand Chapter of that State (Delaware) had not con-

vened for several years, (such was the case of the General Grand Chapter from 1860 to 1865,) and thus neither of the two subordinates had convened for over three years, the warrant of the other Chapters having been demanded and surrendered to the acting G. : H. : P. : ' As I was the only party claiming and performing the duties of G. : H. : P. : , I presume he has reference to me. It is true, I was *acting* by the authority of *election* and *installation*, and that authority was acknowledged. Yet, with these facts before him, that a G. : H. : P. : was *acting, demanding, and receiving* warrants, he says: 'Under this state of facts I issued a dispensation.' What facts? Why, an *acting* G. : H. : P. : , and as a sequence a grand or *acting* Grand Chapter. If there was an *acting* G. : H. : P. : and three subordinates, Delaware was not 'vacant territory.' And he further admits, that, after he had treated our State as *vacant territory*, a convocation of the Grand Chapter has since been held, at which the *three* Chapters were represented.' He further says, that 'the G. : H. : P. : ' stated to him, that one of them was 'without a warrant' and without any new election by either of them. Now, the only Grand High Priest (legally) was myself, and I made no such statement. There *was not* a Convocation of the Grand Chapter, for the simple reason that one was under suspension, and two Chapters could not form a Grand Chapter. The party referred to as the newly elected G. : H. : P. : , (although he was 'fully persuaded that the State of Delaware was vacant territory,') in the most fraternal spirit, proposed to recognize St. John's Chapter. Now, this 'newly elected G. : H. : P. : ' was the offspring of revolt, the leader in the trouble of Chapter No. 1, and without a single qualification for the office, he never having filled *any* office in a Chapter, and was not capable of doing so. Further on he says, 'There is in reality in that State no working Chapter but St. John's.' Yet the present G. : G. : H. : P. : (Austin) declares that he found *three* working Chapters, not counting St. John's, and that he embraced them, (as a bear does his prey,) and *made* with their aid a *Grand Chapter for Delaware*. Now, if Lewis was right, Austin was wrong. If Delaware was 'vacant territory,' having no Chapters, how came Austin to find them? If Austin found three working Chapters, not counting St. John's, Delaware was not *vacant territory*, and the General Grand Chapter had no right to invade her jurisdiction.

"I will not continue this matter further, as the whole proceedings are too gross to require argument. My only wonder is, that the members of the General Grand Chapter failed to see through the flimsy statement of Lewis.

"Now, my dear Companion Mason, I have very briefly and roughly given you a statement of the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in Delaware, and if the truth is questioned, I have *letters* and *documents* to substantiate my position.

"Yours, fraternally, &c.,

GEO. W. CHAYTOR.

When G. : G. : H. : P. : Lewis gave his dispensation to St. John's Chapter, at Wilmington, Grand High Priest Chaytor issued the following edict:

[PAPER No. 1.]

"ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF DELAWARE,

"OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST,

"WILMINGTON, Delaware.

"To all whom it may concern:

"Whereas information has been received that a certain document, purporting to be a warrant issued by and with authority of John L. Lewis, styling himself

General Grand High Priest of the United States, to one George W. Stone, a non-resident, and certain other persons represented to be Royal Arch Masons of the State of New Jersey, empowering them to organize a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Delaware, and locating said Chapter in the city of Wilmington:

"And whereas all the powers, rights, interests, and authorities to rule and govern Royal Arch Masonry in the State of Delaware have, since the year A. D. 1817, (eighteen hundred and seventeen,) been exercised and controlled by the Grand Chapter of this State, and said Grand Chapter has ever been acknowledged and respected by all Royal Arch bodies, grand and subordinate, throughout the world:

"And whereas this illegal act of the said John L. Lewis is a violation of Masonic comity, an invasion of the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, a flagrant usurpation, an encroachment upon the natural rights of State institutions, and is destructive of harmony and Masonic fraternity:

"And whereas the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry, the sovereign rights of this jurisdiction, the important trust reposed in me by the Grand Chapter, demands and requires that I shall use all lawful Masonic means at my command to uphold its dignity, preserve its powers, maintain its rights, guard its interests from all violations, encroachments, and usurpations whatever, and see that its constitution, laws, and edicts, are enforced and respected:

"Therefore, I, George W. Chaytor, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Delaware, do hereby proclaim and declare, that the warrant issued to the said George W. Stone and others is illegal in fact and act, (as far as this jurisdiction is concerned,) and the organization of said Royal Arch Chapter in this State to be irregular and consequently clandestine; and I do hereby forbid all Royal Arch Masons of Delaware holding Masonic fellowship with the aforesaid clandestine Chapter, or any person or persons belonging thereto, or in any way recognizing its legality.

"And I do further proclaim, that such Royal Arch Masons of the State of Delaware who shall in any manner acknowledge, recognise, or hold fellowship with said clandestine body, or any of its adherents and supporters, shall be tried and punished for contumacy and violation of Masonic principles.

"And I further proclaim, that the Grand Chapter of the State of Delaware is the only legal and sole Royal Arch authority in this jurisdiction, and all Royal Arch Masons will therefore govern themselves accordingly.

"M. E. High Priests of this jurisdiction will cause this proclamation to be read in their respective Chapters at the next regular Convocation of them after it shall be received.

"In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name, this 2d day of January, anno Lucis 5868 anno Inventionis 2398, and have caused the seal of the Grand Chapter to be affixed thereto.

"[SEAL.]

GEORGE W. CHAYTOR,

"G. H. P. of the Grand Chapter of R. A. M. of the State of Delaware."

"Attest: D. C. GODWIN,

"Grand Secretary."

This edict was followed by this statement, which is given *verbatim* :

[PAPER No. 2.]

" OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST,
" WILMINGTON, January 29, 2398.

" To ——— Chapter, No. —.

" MY VERY DEAR AND WORTHY HIGH PRIEST AND COMPANIONS :

" In accordance with a requirement of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of the State of Delaware, fixing the Annual Convocation at Dover, on the first Monday after the third Tuesday of January—due notice being given by the Grand Secretary—the Grand officers, members, and representatives repaired to the Masons' Hall at the hour designated. A legal number of sub-Chapters not being represented, a Grand Chapter could not be opened, except in violation of law, usage, and propriety. This fact was announced to the Companions there assembled. The representatives of these sub-Chapters were their present High Priests, (both elective officers of the Grand Chapter;) and all acquainted with Masonic custom know that two sub-Chapters cannot constitute a Grand Chapter. It is true, that a number of the members of a suspended Chapter—all under charges, except one or two—were present. Two of these Companions claimed to be the rightful representatives of their Chapter, and insisted that they should be recognized as such, through a Companion whose position in Masonry should have placed him on the side of law and order, and not advocating the improper pretensions of the unworthy, and finally heading a rebellion against a power he had solemnly sworn to respect and obey. The language employed in their cause was as remarkable for vehemence and passion as it was devoid of respect and legal acumen. The Grand Chapter not being opened, I was powerless to prevent such an exhibition of bad taste and lawlessness, and had no other alternative than to again declare my decision, and in company with the Deputy Grand High Priest (the Grand Scribe having left) retire from a shameful scene of discord and revolt.

" Not satisfied with the confusion already created by them in the Temple, the Grand Chapter was declared defunct, and a convention organized for the purpose of forming a new Grand Chapter. The Companion called to the chair had never been elected to the office of High Priest of a Chapter, and at the time was resting under charges of Masonic misconduct. This self-styled convention was made up of the representatives of one Chapter, one Past High Priest, a number of the members of the suspended Chapter—all but one or two under charges—some good-intentioned and worthy Companions from different parts of the State and from Pennsylvania and other jurisdictions. This promiscuous body formed what they now please to call a Grand Chapter, adopted, I presume, a constitution and elected officers, who were installed by the chairman. The person elected their Most Excellent Grand High Priest has never, to my certain knowledge, filled any office in a sub-Chapter; the Deputy is, I think, in this particular, like his chief, but most certainly he never was High Priest to a Chapter. The names of the other officers have not reached me, but I have no doubt their qualifications will compare favorably with those possessed by their Grand head.

" I need scarcely remind you, that the Constitutions of Royal Arch Masonry

require, as an imperative qualification for office in Grand Chapters, that the parties shall at the time of their election be present or past High Priests. This new organization, being deficient in this essential particular, cannot be recognized by Royal Arch Masons at home or abroad. Independent of this disqualification, this convention is devoid of every legal attribute. There is not a stone in their grand edifice that will stand the test of the square, law, custom, and usage; and, if they are sustained in their heedless and reckless course, the portal of every Royal Arch Chapter in the country will be closed against you. The usage and custom recognized by Masons for the formation of Grand bodies, venerable from their antiquity, have in no one particular been followed or regarded. Passion, blind, impetuous passion, controlled some, while artifice, subtlety, and a fear of justice instigated others. Can you give countenance to a body so destitute of every legal Masonic requirement—the offspring of corrupt and vicious Masons, who sought by the initiation of a state of anarchy that safety from punishment which peace and harmony would certainly bring upon them?

“Strange and improbable as these things may appear to worthy and well-disposed Companions, they nevertheless took place in the town of Dover, on the 20th inst. These parties came together evidently by prearrangement, with a digested plan of action, with a fixed purpose to create discord and excite rebellion. They declared their intention, and in direct violation of all their Masonic vows, the bonds of companionship, the sacred ties which should “unite us into one sacred band or society of friends,” did then and there commit acts of the most flagrant character, and inaugurated a scene of turmoil and confusion never before witnessed in this jurisdiction.

“The questions for you now to determine are: 1st. Was there a lawful Grand Chapter in this jurisdiction prior to and up to the 20th instant? 2d. Have we at this time a regular and legal Grand Chapter in Delaware?

“Before you answer these questions, let me direct your attention to your warrant of constitution—that instrument which created your Chapter, and which gives legality to your acts. That instrument emanated from and bears the broad seal of the Grand Chapter of Delaware. If the Grand Chapter does not exist, its authorities and powers expired at the time it expired, and you are not a legitimate Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and all your acts since the period of its death are illegal and clandestine. If your authority to act as a Chapter is still valid, and you a regular and legal body, the Grand Chapter is not dead, but the living and supreme power within this jurisdiction, and that lawful government you have so long acknowledged, and which you as Royal Arch Masons have individually sworn to support and obey. If you are a regularly warranted Chapter, you obtained and hold this right by a grant from the Grand Chapter, and, being its creature, you are religiously bound by your sacred oaths to respect its authority, support its edicts, and obey its behests. A Chapter of Royal Arch Masons acquires all its rights, powers, and respects, from a superior, recognized among Masons and styled by them a Grand Chapter; and, during the existence of that superior, these acquired rights, powers, and respects remain in full force and activity; but, should that superior become defunct, all the rights, powers, and respects delegated by or emanating from it become also

defunct; consequently your warrant loses its vitality, and from that moment you cease to exist as a Chapter.

"Let me, my Companions, ask: Is your Chapter regular—do you work under a living warrant? Do you feel certain that your Chapter is, in all respects, legally qualified to make Royal Arch Masons? If your answer be in the affirmative, you declare and proclaim the existence of the authority that made you, and acknowledge your subordination to rules, corrections, and directions, and admit your veneration for its officers, supreme and subordinate; and also the force of your obligations to strictly support and enforce its laws, conform to its regulations, and obey the orders and edicts of its grand head. If, however, your answer shall be in the negative, you declare and proclaim to the Masonic world that you are irregular and clandestine—a Chapter without any living authority, acknowledging no legal Grand Chapter, and acknowledged by none.

"It becomes your duty to immediately determine by a vote where you intend to stand; whether under the banner of the old, regular, and legal Grand Chapter, or the one the other day elevated by this illegal offspring of passion and revolt.

"Companions, in all kindness and fraternity, permit me to entreat you to pause and consider well the answer you will return to these momentous questions. Be cautious, lest you take a false step! Let not the influence of friends or the fear of enemies prevent you from acting as your conscience may honestly dictate! Be just to yourselves, true to your allegiance, and firm in your support of the Grand Chapter of Delaware, a body that for fifty years has given you life and character. Be careful, if you think of severing the ties which have for so many years bound you to this venerable Grand body, that you do not at the same time destroy your vitality and crush out your existence as a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. If you shall decide to stand to and support the only true and legitimate Grand Chapter in this State, you have nothing to fear, and all will be right. Your firmness and loyalty will erect a barrier too strong to be breached by domestic revolt or foreign invasion.

"As your Grand High Priest, one you have long known as a faithful laborer 'in the forests and in the quarries,' one that for nearly thirty years has wrought untiringly for the advancement and good of Masonry, let me approach you with all the candor of Masonic friendship, and entreat you to cling to the Holy Mother from whom you receive your life and support, discard this illegal and ridiculous movement, and aid me to restore to our State harmony, love, and those fraternal bonds which, until a few months past, have been the ephod and breast-plate of Royal Arch Masonry in Delaware.

"GEO. W. CHAYTOR, M. D.,

"Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Delaware."

This state of things existed until the following May, (1868,) when the following edict was issued:

[PAPER No. 3.]

"OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST,

"WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

"To Companion Royal Arch Masons of the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the State of Delaware, greeting:

"Whereas certain unworthy and rebellious Royal Arch Masons have organ-

ized a body which they style a Grand Chapter, and have assumed and are exercising rights and powers belonging alone to the Grand Chapter of this State ;

"And whereas the organization of this body was effected by certain evil disposed and seditious Masons, (under charges,) members of Washington and La Fayette Chapter, (suspended,) of this city, aided and sustained by members of Temple Chapter of Milford and Hope Chapter (suspended,) of Georgetown ;

"And whereas persons acting under the authority of the said illegal body have, in violation of covenants and laws, seized and taken possession of certain records, funds, jewels, seals, and other properties of the aforesaid Chapters, and under the names of said Chapters are holding meetings, expending the funds, and deceiving innocent brethren, to the great scandal and injury of Royal Arch Masonry :

"Therefore I, George W. Chaytor, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Delaware, do hereby ordain, declare, and proclaim the said body, styled a Grand Chapter, to have no valid legal existence, and consequently irregular and clandestine ; and all regular Chapters and loyal worthy Companions are hereby enjoined and strictly forbidden from holding any Masonic intercourse with, or from any recognition of the authority of, the so-called Grand Chapter, or any of its officers, or any one recognizing its authority.

"And I further proclaim, that such Companions as may have connected themselves with said illegal and clandestine body, or any of its subordinates, or who may have in any way or in any manner assisted and countenanced said unlawful organization, are required immediately to withdraw themselves therefrom and abandon the same, or *be subject to penalty*. And further, all such Companions are required to forward to my office, by mail, a notice of said withdrawal and abandonment within one month from the date of this order.

"And further, I earnestly and fraternally exhort said Companion Royal Arch Masons to pause and deliberate upon the illegality of their present proceedings, the violation of their sacred covenants, the destruction of harmony and fraternal relations, and to at once institute proper and legal measures to place themselves in subordination to the Grand Chapter of Delaware, assuring them, in the most cordial manner, of my sympathy and co-operation in effecting the same.

"In testimony whereof I have subscribed my name, this nineteenth day of May, anno Lucis 5868, anno Inventionis 2398, and have caused the seal of the Grand Chapter to be affixed thereto.

"[SEAL.]

GEORGE W. CHAYTOR,

"Gr.: H.: P.: of R.: A.: M.: of Delaware.

"Attest: WILLIAM GRAVES,

"Acting Grand Secretary Grand Chapter of Delaware."

In September, 1868, the General Grand Chapter convened at St. Louis, and General Grand High Priest Lewis there presented his statement of the case in his address, as follows:

"In the month of December last I received a petition from twenty R.: A.: Companions at Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, praying for a dispensation for a Chapter at that place. Accompanying the dispensation was a memo-

rial, stating that the Grand Chapter of that State had not convened for several years, and that neither of its *two* subordinates had convened for over three years, the warrant of the other Chapter having been demanded and surrendered to the acting Grand High Priest. Under this state of facts I issued a dispensation to Companions George W. Stone as High Priest, William H. Lee as King, and Alfred Gawthrop as Scribe of a Chapter at Wilmington, to be named 'St. John's,' with the proviso, however, that no Grand Chapter should be found to exist in that State, and no working subordinate, it having been recommended by a New Jersey Chapter. The record of the Grand Chapter has since been shown to me, affirming fully the facts stated in the memorial, so far as relates to the Grand Chapter. The same record, however, shows that a Convocation of the Grand Chapter has since been held, at which the three Chapters were represented, although one of them is without a warrant, and, as stated to me by the Grand High Priest, without any new election of officers by either of them. I am fully persuaded that the State of Delaware was vacant territory, and hence under our jurisdiction at the date of issuing the dispensation. The new Chapter has been successfully at labor while the other Chapters have remained dormant. The newly elected Grand High Priest, Leslie, proposes, in the most fraternal spirit, to recognize St. John's Chapter, if it will take a warrant from them, and to be represented in future in this body. As this may be done as well after as before legal warrant is issued, I recommend that St. John's Chapter be duly warranted at the present Convocation. There is good material in the quarries of Delaware, and I know of no reason why the workmen should remain idle who are willing to work, because warrants lie dormant for the want of authority in any one to demand them. There is in reality no working Chapter in that State but St. John's. Upon granting a dispensation to that body an edict was issued by their pretended Grand High Priest, denouncing the General Grand Chapter and its presiding officer in the usual style of such documents, styled by some Masonic; but in the turn of fortune's wheel, he, too, like the fabulous body over which he claimed to preside, seems to have passed into the gulf of oblivion."

Thus it will be seen that there existed cause for strife, which General Grand High Priest Lewis had kindled, and he wished to put out the fire by burning down the house. After his address was referred to a committee, the following protest from Grand High Priest Chaytor was received and referred to the special committee on the State of Delaware:

"OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF DELAWARE.

"To the M. E. General Grand Royal Arch Chapter:

"For fifty years, since June, 1817, the Grand Chapter of Delaware has been recognized and acknowledged as an independent sovereign body. Her right to exercise Masonic jurisdiction over the interests of Royal Arch Masonry in the State of Delaware, for that period of time, has never been disputed or questioned. Carefully protecting the rights of neighboring jurisdictions from aggressions by her subordinates, she has zealously guarded her own from encroachment and invasion. Knowing how purely disinterested and solely Masonic were her relations and feelings towards other Grand Chapters, and particularly her immediate neighbors, she apprehended no wrongs. But unfortunately her

confidence was misapplied, the time of trouble was chosen as a proper period to invade her territory and weaken her authority. Persons residing in the State of Delaware have been made Royal Arch Masons by a Chapter or Chapters in Trenton, New Jersey, and Baltimore, Maryland, in violation of Masonic usage. This was not all. A Chapter, under a dispensation granted by the General Grand High Priest, was instituted in this city about the beginning of the present year.

"A difficulty, entirely domestic, was seized upon as a good reason for such unfraternal proceedings. Aid and comfort have been given to the few seditious Companions, advice and counsel freely offered, and every encouragement shown them, until this spark of sedition has been fanned into a flame of rebellion. Had fraternal and wiser counsel prevailed; had this rebellious spirit been discountenanced; had these turbulent and evil-disposed Companions met with the reprobation and rebuke their conduct so justly merited, they would have acknowledged their error months since, and peace and harmony would at this time, as heretofore, have their abode within our jurisdiction.

"That peace may again be restored; that fraternity and companionship may prevade all parts of this State, and Royal Arch Masonry resume its harmonious influences, I, the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Delaware, do in the most solemn manner protest against the institution of a Chapter by your Grand head in this jurisdiction, as a violation of your organic law; as a violation of all Masonic comity; as a violation of the usages and customs established and acknowledged by Grand bodies throughout the world, as well as a violation of the authorities and privileges of this Grand Chapter; and, ask you, not as a favor, or in any unfraternal spirit, to render to this Grand jurisdiction that justice which as Masons, members of the same family, we have a right to demand and expect at your hands.

"And I further ask, that you exercise your authority within your jurisdiction to prevent all Royal Arch Masons giving aid and comfort to the seditious and rebellious Companions of this jurisdiction, and require them so far to aid the Grand authorities of Delaware in restoring peace and harmony, as to discountenance, on all convenient occasions, said contumacious Companions; and also to suspend fraternal relations with all such Royal Arch Masons until they shall have purged themselves of all seditions and contumacy, and be restored to fraternal intercourse in their several Chapters. Believing this request to be based upon the broad principles of Masonic justice and equity, as well as involving interests of the deepest import to the fraternity at large, I feel that it will not only entertain your grave consideration, but receive your approval. For if sedition and revolt are sustained by you in Delaware, what jurisdiction is secure against its inroads? If you lend your countenance to a rebellion against the legal and constituted authorities of this, will not the precedent you thus establish be seized upon by bad and evil-disposed Masons in the other States to defy the authorities and set all law at defiance? For, whatever in your wisdom you may determine upon, as a rule for the troubles now existing in Delaware, will with equal force apply to Virginia and Pennsylvania.

"If you accede to my requests, refusing all warrant of constitution to the Chapter under dispensation in this city, and withdraw all fellowship and coun-

tenance from our turbulent and rebellious Companions, the work of restoration will be more than half accomplished. But a short time will pass before this jurisdiction will be blessed with peace, and harmony, and unity. All discontent will cease, good fellowship be awakened, the laws of Masonry will be respected and enforced; the bands of Companionship, now almost destroyed, will be united, and upon our altars again will burn the sweet-smelling incense of brotherly affection and concord.

"Done in the city of Wilmington, State of Delaware, this the 7th day of September, anno Inventionis 2398.

[SEAL]

"GEORGE W. CHAYTOR,

"Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Delaware.

"WILLIAM GRAVES,

*"Acting Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Delaware,
vice DANIEL C. GODWIN, suspended."*

We find in the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, held at St. Louis, in September, 1868, that so much of the General Grand High Priest's address as relates to Delaware be referred to a committee of five, which consisted of Companions Thomas J. Corson, of New Jersey; George Rex, of Ohio; Alvin B. Alden, of Wisconsin; Thomas Newby, of Indiana; and Isaac S. Titus, of California; which was certainly a committee of eminent Masons.

It is hard to believe that such a committee would take *ex parte* statements on which to report. The characters of these Masons forbid such a suspicion.

How much of a diagnosis Dr. Corson made of the sick man (Delaware) we have no information; but two days after this, he presented his prognosis to the General Grand Chapter, which was, that at the time a dispensation was issued by General Grand High Priest Lewis to form a new Chapter at Wilmington no Grand Chapter existed in Delaware. They evidently looked in all the pigeon-holes of the General Grand Chapter, and could find no Delaware Grand Chapter, although they had Grand High Priest Chaytor's affidavit before them that a Grand Chapter existed, and was in a healthy condition. They took it for granted that Dr. Chaytor, the Grand High Priest, did not know so much about this matter as G. G. H. P. Lewis, who was just then on the rampage after unoccupied territory. So Companion Thomas, of Tennessee, was kind enough to bring in the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That the G. G. H. P. be and he is hereby requested to examine into the referred-to Grand Chapter of Delaware, and, if found to be a legal Grand Chapter, he is hereby instructed to have the same enrolled under this jurisdiction, as requested by the Companions of Delaware."

This resolution, with its bad grammar, passed this august body, while the ghost of Lindley Murray was protesting against it, and the affidavits of G. H. P. Chaytor flatly denying the assertion.

Incorporated into the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter we find the *addenda* of this Royal Arch tragedy, dated one month later, and, for some reasons, best known to himself, placed in the proceedings of the *General Grand body*, at St. Louis, by the General Grand Secretary:

"OFFICE OF THE GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST

"OF THE GENERAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

"OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

"NEW YORK, November 20, 1868.

"To all regular Royal Arch Masons, wherever dispersed, more especially those in the State of Delaware, greeting:

"Whereas, after careful examination and patient hearing of those in interest, it has appeared, and does appear to me, that any legal existence heretofore attaching to a Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Delaware has ceased, and that such Grand Chapter no longer exists, and the several Chapters heretofore holding under it have become dormant from *non-user* and other reasons; and

"Whereas, by the fact of the cessation of the Grand Chapter of the State of Delaware, all semblance of lawful governmental authority in that State has ceased, and the territory has become Masonically vacant; therefore the authority of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of right obtains, and is in full force and effect in the said State of Delaware; and

"Whereas the several subordinate Chapters in the State of Delaware have signified their desire to resume labor under competent authority, to wit, that of the General Grand Chapter aforesaid:

"Now, therefore, I, James M. Austin, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, do, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me,

"1. Receive and recognize Washington and LaFayette Chapter, No. 1, Wilmington; Temple Chapter, No. 2, Milford; and Hope Chapter, No. 4, Georgetown, in the State of Delaware, as lawful Royal Arch Chapters, hereby authorizing them to resume and continue work under the warrants now or lately held by them, and declaring regular all acts performed by them, with the consent of their members, and under sanction of said warrants.

"2. Having been informed and believing that the warrant of Washington and LaFayette Chapter, No. 1, has been and is unlawfully withheld from its custody by a former High Priest, I do, by these presents, specially authorize them to work as though the said warrant were present, until the pleasure of the General Grand Chapter is made known, or a State Grand Chapter be formed.

"Given under my hand and private seal, at the place and on the day and year first above written.

JAMES M. AUSTIN,

General Grand High Priest."

This last act in the tragedy hastened the formation of the new Grand Chapter, which was formed the following January, at Dover, by G.: G.: H.: P.: Austin, as stated in the opening paragraphs of this article. We have given a full account of this matter *pro* and *con.*, because we believe that it is the most important affair that has transpired among the craft the past year. If the acts of the General Grand Chapter will produce harmony in Delaware, and heal the trouble caused by G.: G.: H.: P.: Lewis, we shall all rejoice and make "a joyful noise unto the Lord."

FLORIDA.

The Twenty-Second Annual Convocation was held at Tallahassee, January 13, 1868. They bear upon their roll the names and returns of 16 Chapters in good condition. The loss of P.: H.: P.: Thomas Brown seems to be severely felt by our Florida Companions. He was their Nestor in Capitular Masonry. They have a peculiar way of printing their report on foreign correspondence separate from the proceedings, and this we have not yet received.

Appended to the proceedings of the Grand Chapter are those of the Grand Council, which we think wrong to print together. They should be printed separately, in the same way that the proceedings of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter are separately reported and printed.

We have also received the proceedings of the Annual Convocation held at Tallahassee January 11, 1869. The most important proceedings of this Convocation were the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

"Whereas the General Grand Chapter of the United States, waiving all matters heretofore in controversy relative to the organization of this Grand Chapter, thereby admitting the regularity of the same, has most cordially and fraternally invited this Grand Chapter to become a constituent member thereof; therefore

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter accept such invitation in a true Masonic spirit, and will hereafter bear allegiance and support to the said General Grand Chapter."

The report on foreign correspondence was presented by eminent Companion D. C. Dawkins, who was elected Grand High Priest at this Convocation. From this report we gather the following information, in his review of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"It is well and generally known, here and elsewhere, that the Grand Chapter of Florida has never been a constituent member of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, but the cause thereof is known and understood only to the very few of our surviving Companions who retain in memory a personal recollection of the facts, and the additional few who have attentively read our past history. We have therefore thought proper here to state that, soon after its formation, this Grand Chapter, comprehending the utility of such an organization as the General Grand Chapter then was, or ought to be, made application to that confederated union of Grand Chapters, which thereupon undertook to investigate the question of regularity of our Grand Chapter organization, at which our venerated predecessors took umbrage, and a spirited controversy followed. Florida withdrew her application, and has since stood aloof. We deem it unprofitable to enter into details to arrive at a conclusion as to who, if any, were at fault, but content ourselves with these thoughts: Our predecessors of this Grand Chapter conceded the regularity, importance, and competent utility of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, in the fact of their applying for affiliation therewith."

GEORGIA.

We have received the proceedings of the Annual Convocation held at Augusta, April 29, 1868, but no proceedings for 1869 have come to hand. Grand High

Priest Lawrence delivered an excellent address, parts of which we would copy if we had the space. Companion J. Emmett Blackshear gave the report on foreign correspondence. In this he devotes four pages to a review of the formation and legality of our Grand Chapter, which reads now very much like a last year's almanac. He makes so many mistakes in stating the case, and so many errors creep into the historical part, that we do not care either to copy them or discuss the matter now. We extended to Georgia our right hand, and our compliments last year, and will thank her Grand Secretary to send us their proceedings for 1869.

ILLINOIS.

This Grand Chapter convened October 9, 1868, at Springfield, ninety-four of the one hundred and thirty-five Chapters in the State being represented. Illinois reports five thousand seven hundred and one Royal Arch Masons, and is only exceeded in numbers by New York, Pennsylvania, and Missouri. Her prairies are all ablaze with the council fires on the altars of Capitular Masonry.

The proceedings received show wonderful prosperity in the State, twenty-one new Chapters being chartered at this Convocation. The proceedings cover one hundred and eighty pages, and are very full and copious, including everything usually found in such reports, together with the prayer of their Grand Chaplain.

Grand High Priest Lininger made a good address, from which we want to make extracts, but want of space forbids.

Grand Secretary Reynolds presents the report on foreign correspondence, which is all very good, except the sarcastic and personal rejoinder upon Companion Gouley, of Missouri, who seems to have been on the war-path after Companion Reynolds.

The review on the District of Columbia occupies one line, as follows: "The notice of this Grand Chapter will be found under the head of the General Grand Chapter."

In the review of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter we find nothing except its official action toward us.

He puts a postscript to the report, as follows:

"We have refrained in this report from noticing this matter under the heads of Chapters, and only have to say, in conclusion, that the Companions in Maryland live under fixed and enduring conditions of society, while those in the District are from every portion of this vast Republic, mercurial, changing, and evanescent, representing the cosmopolitan and local character of the nation, and the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia will necessarily be a home for Royal Arch Masons from every part of this land. We bid it God speed."

Yes, we are not only cosmopolitan, but also metropolitan in character; while Maryland is proverbially slow and provincial. We have, in the District of Columbia, prominent Royal Arch Masons from *every State in the Union*, and every part of Europe, and the interchange of opinions and ideas among them enrich the institution here, and free us from that narrow-minded prejudice peculiar to precincts where no such advantages are afforded.

INDIANA.

The Twenty-Third Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Indiana was held at Fort Wayne, October 21 and 22, 1868.

Grand High Priest Newby gave a good address, mostly occupied with local matters, showing that Royal Arch Masonry is flourishing in Indiana. He alludes kindly to our Grand Chapter, in reviewing the action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and extends to us the right-hand of fellowship. He says that no proceedings have been received from our Grand Chapter, and regrets their non-arrival. Our Grand Secretary certainly sent them. The review in the columns under foreign correspondence was made from a copy of our proceedings obtained from an Indiana Companion.

A special committee gives a clear statement of Capitular Masonry in Indiana, as follows:

"The committee can but congratulate the Grand Chapter and the Royal Craft in the highly prosperous condition and the general uniformity that prevail throughout our jurisdiction, much of which is no doubt attributable to the action of the Grand Chapter in adopting a system of work for the conferring of the several degrees in the Chapter.

"When the system of work, as practiced in this jurisdiction, was made official, we had forty-three subordinate Chapters on our registry, many of which were but barely maintaining an existence, and but few were apparently alive and working at all, mainly for the want of a proper knowledge of the ceremonies and rituals of the Order, and for this reason we find that several of our Chapters surrendered their charters and quit.

In 1861, in forty-seven Chapters, we had but eighty exaltations, or less than two for a Chapter. Since our last annual communication, in sixty-nine Chapters the exaltations will amount to about eight hundred, an average of over eleven for each Chapter. But six years have gone by since the official action of the Grand Chapter above referred to, and in that time our subordinate Chapters have nearly doubled in numbers, and all, with but two or three exceptions, where local causes are operating against them, are harmoniously and prosperously at work, as the reports that have come in for the present year fully show. We find that Royal Arch Masonry, in the past few years, has become exceedingly popular among the Craft throughout our entire jurisdiction."

Indiana seems to be the only State where they compel their Grand High Priest to make out the report on foreign correspondence. On this subject he says:

"Our limited experience has proven to us fully the truth of the assertion made by so many of our Companions on foreign correspondence, that it is laying too heavy a duty on the Grand High Priest to require of him the extra duties of a reviewer, and we leave as a legacy the wish that the task may be divided."

Grand High Priest Newby, in his reports, has the following information and excellent advice to his Grand Chapter:

"In reading the various transactions presented to us, we note that the meetings of the Grand Chapters are styled 'Convocations' by all the Grand bodies

save Pennsylvania and Indiana, who use the term 'communication.' Webster defines *communication* as 'the act of imparting, conferring, or delivering to one another, as the communication of knowledge, opinions, or facts.' *Convocation* he defines, 'the act of calling or assembling by summons: An assembly, as in Exodus, *In the first day there shall be a holy convocation*; and, in England, an assembly of the clergy, by their representatives, to consult on ecclesiastical affairs.' On what authority our State uses the word communication, we do not know, but to us the term 'convocation' is more appropriate, and we would approve of the change, especially as it is used by all the other Grand Chapters, save one."

This is a step in the right direction. Now, make another, E. C. Companion Newby, by eliminating that "Blue Lodge" term about calling a Chapter "from labor to refreshment." A Chapter should be called to a "resumed convocation" at any date or time specified, and then should *resume work—not labor*, for that is a Blue Lodge term. The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia prohibits its subordinates from calling a Chapter "from labor to refreshment." It compels the use of the ancient terms and landmarks, such as named above, and which may be seen in the records and proceedings of all ancient Chapters working on the Atlantic coast one hundred years ago, by charters obtained from both England and Scotland. Let us do away with all these modern innovations.

IOWA.

We have received the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for 1868, but they are so badly printed we can scarcely read them.

Grand High Priest Hemmenway presented an address filled entirely with local affairs, showing wonderful prosperity.

The committee on the address presented the following:

"Your committee especially commend the Grand High Priest for the great care he has exercised in issuing special dispensations to subordinate Chapters and Chapters under dispensation, as also his declaration that substitutes should in no case be allowed in conferring the degrees. They believe that the admission of substitutes is contrary to the spirit of Masonry, opposed to its prosperity, and inimical to the best interests of the craft. They therefore recommend that this Grand Chapter take some action positively forbidding the use of substitutes under any and all circumstances."

And then the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the using of substitutes in the subordinate Chapters in conferring the Royal Arch degree is expressly prohibited."

These proceedings were sent without the "appendix," containing Dr. Guilbert's report on foreign correspondence, and we mourn the loss of his report more than words can tell. The doctor is one of the raciest writers in the country, and never treads in the beaten path of a dog-trot pace, or indulges in Masonic cant or platitudes.

He dissects Masonic humbugs with a merciless scalpel, and amputates hypocrites directly behind the ears. We would give more to meet him than any disciple of *Æsculapius* we can now call to mind.

They have a singular way of making the Grand King outrank the Deputy Grand High Priest in Iowa, which the following report sets right :

" *To the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa :*

" Your committee on jurisprudence, to whom was referred certain questions and resolutions of Masonic jurisprudence, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit their views thereon to the Grand Chapter for their final action upon the same.

" 1st. In relation to the power, duties, and prerogatives of the Deputy Grand High Priest, in the absence of the Grand High Priest, your committee are firmly of the opinion that all the powers possessed by the Grand High Priest must of necessity, in case of his absence, fall upon the deputy, for this among other reasons: The priesthood was alone confined to the tribe of Levi, and no one not of that tribe was permitted to aspire to or assume the duties and responsibilities of the high priesthood under any pretense whatever. Not even the king, under the Mosaic law, although clothed with absolute power over his subjects, was allowed to meddle with the duties of the priesthood, or even to touch the vestments thereof, without incurring the displeasure of the Almighty. Even the ark of the covenant was not allowed to be borne or touched by any except by those of the tribe of Levi, and Uzzah, for his temerity in putting forth his hand to steady the ark, was struck dead, and Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, for their presumption in assuming the prerogatives of the priestly office, met with a similar fate. With these views, your committee believe that the Deputy Grand High Priest, being an appointment from the Grand Council for a specific object, and not the King, should preside in the absence of the Grand High Priest.

" 2d. Upon question 2d, 'Is a Mark Master Mason made in England eligible to the balance of the Chapter degrees in a Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter?' we reply, yes; but as independent Mark Lodges are not recognized in this jurisdiction, it is first necessary that he be formally healed."

KANSAS.

The Fourth Annual Convocation of this young and prosperous Grand Chapter was held at Lawrence, October 19, 1868, each one of her ten Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Richard R. Rees presented an address marked with unusual ability. He referred to the action of the Grand Chapter, in directing its representatives to the General Grand Chapter to endeavor to get said body to strike out the Past Master's degree from the Chapter, and reported that he had obeyed these instructions. He further says:

" No action could be taken, further than to lay it over to the next triennial session, yet many members seemed impressed with a desire to place this order where it properly belongs, that our impressive ritual might not be marred with this discordant interloper; and from the intimations that I heard we safely may assume that three years hence the expression of that body will have been to strike it out."

Companion E. P. Carr presented the report on foreign correspondence, ably

reviewing the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters. He devotes twenty-two pages to the District of Columbia, giving a complete history of our struggle for independence. We will guarantee the Companions in Kansas understand all about our biography.

LOUISIANA.

The Twenty-Second Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter met in New Orleans, February 9, 1869. Reports show the Craft to be in a very flourishing condition. There are thirty-two Chapters in the State, holding a membership of one thousand four hundred.

They acknowledge the receipt of our proceedings for 1868, and say "we are glad to see that the Grand Chapter is apparently prospering and in a very flourishing condition," in the report on foreign correspondence offered by Companion Joseph P. Hornor. In regard to the report on foreign correspondence for our Grand Chapter, they say:

"The report on foreign correspondence was presented by Companion J. Edwin Mason, but is signed by Companions B. B. French, J. E. Mason, and L. G. Stephens, in the order named, and we are in doubt as to whom we should attribute the honor of its composition, but are rather inclined to look upon it as a joint production, which is probably the truth."

The report of Companion Chipman last year on physical disqualification of candidates they desire to print in their own report, and say: "We do not agree with some of its conclusions, although they are very ably drawn, and the whole paper evinces much research." Our committee on jurisprudence get similar compliments from all parts of the United States.

We have read every word of Companion Hornor's report on foreign correspondence, covering fifty closely-printed pages, and find it one of the ablest and most discriminating reports yet received. It seemed as though the place of Companion Leake last year could not be filled, his report was so fraternal and marked with such accuracy. But his mantle has fallen on worthy shoulders. With two such Companions to wield the pen, Louisiana may feel justly proud of her exalted position in Capitular Masonry. New Orleans Companions who visit Washington always seem to be bright and well posted. We shall always welcome them here, notwithstanding the bitterness exhibited by Grand High Priest Todd in his address. His address does not breathe a Masonic spirit toward us, and is in strange contrast to the report of Companion Leake last year on our recognition. This may be accounted for, when it is remembered, that he was on the special committee in the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis on the District of Columbia, and aided Coffinberry in all his efforts, and carried the Louisiana delegation against us on every vote. In speaking of the action of General Grand High Priest Lewis and his arguments, in his address before the Grand Chapter of Louisiana last February, he says:

"Your representatives deemed these objections good and valid, and therefore voted against the admission of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, deeming its admission an interference with the authority of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, not authorized by the Constitution of the General Grand body or the usages of Masonry. A considerable majority,

however, voted in favor of the report, admitting this new Grand Chapter, and thus ended the matter, as we hope finally, for although our Companions of Maryland have been somewhat hardly treated in this dismemberment of its jurisdiction, yet we cannot but express the hope that due reflection will induce them to accept the situation as one best for all parties concerned."

His sympathies for Maryland in this struggle are plainly shown in his address, and, although he thinks they have been "hardly treated," he hopes they will "accept the situation." This is the very last ray of hope that Maryland has got, and now that Grand High Priest Todd gives them such excellent advice, we do not see how they can help profiting by it. It is the "last straw that breaks the camel's back." With Louisiana and Michigan against them; their last belligerent friend surrendered; and, the whole Masonic world denouncing their folly, is not their path of duty plain?

The following resolutions, introduced into the Grand Chapter, speak for themselves:

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, as a member of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, hereby formally recognizes the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, by virtue of the resolutions passed by the General Grand Chapter at its last Convocation, and extends to her a fraternal welcome.

"Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, the organization known as the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States of America has become useless, may become dangerous, and ought to cease to exist. That our representatives, at the next Grand Convocation of said General Grand Chapter, be and they are hereby instructed to propose and advocate the adoption of resolutions providing for the total extinction of said General Grand Chapter; and that, in the event of the non-passage of such resolutions, then that our said representatives request the release of this Grand Chapter from all her obligations to and connection with said General Grand Chapter."

The first resolution was passed, and the second referred to the committee on jurisprudence.

This makes the chain of States on the seaboard, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, a unit against the General Grand Chapter of the United States, except South Carolina. The Grand High Priest of Mississippi thought that State had legally seceded, but the Companions of the State think different, and so the matter rests. As we cross the classic Potomac and travel southward, we find our southern sister Grand Chapters all opposed to the General Grand Chapter, or what they call "a manufactory of high-sounding titles," having no power, and virtually no existence, except a spasmodic struggle for life once in three years.

Thus we have Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas all united in sentiment on this great question. And north of us are the States of Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Kentucky, and Iowa, seceded never to return. The delegates from Massachusetts were instructed, by a *unanimous* vote of their Grand Chapter, to secede at St. Louis, but forgot to do so. Vermont and Indiana secede one year and go back the next, and keep bobbing in and out so often, that nobody pretends now to keep track of them. Vir-

ginia, Pennsylvania, and Florida never acknowledged the General Grand Chapter, while all the rest above named have seceded since their organization.

In an able review of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, by the committee on foreign correspondence, our status is defined as follows:

"We think that we have fairly shown the tenor and conclusions of the arguments on both sides. In both, there is much with which we heartily agree, but we think that the Grand Chapter of Maryland is in error in seeking to prolong a useless controversy. The new Grand Chapter has become an established fact; the opinions of a majority of the most enlightened of the Craft are in its favor, and the peace and harmony of Capitular Masonry, rather than the General Grand Chapter, demand that Maryland shall yield; and the sooner she recognizes her daughter, and counsels Potomac Chapter to do likewise, the better for the Craft everywhere. We concede that she cannot be compelled to comply with the resolutions of the national body, but she should assent to the wishes of her sister jurisdictions, a large majority of whom are clearly against her. In this light, and in none other, do we submit a resolution recognizing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, not that we think it necessary, but, having been appealed to on the subject, some decided stand on our part should be taken.

"But from all these doings and sayings we have been irresistibly drawn to the conclusion, that the General Grand Chapter is now an entirely useless institution, may become a dangerous one, and should cease to exist. The strongest argument ever advanced in behalf of its utility was that contained in the address of the late General Grand High Priest, Companion John L. Lewis, at the last Convocation, and answers itself in every sentence. We give it entire:

"But it is said that the General Grand Chapter is *useless*!

"*Useless!* when we have shown that by its great conservative powers it has added joy and beauty to our institution; *useless!* when it has bound together by the strongest ties those who were not only the giant intellects of the fraternity, but of the nation; *useless!* when it has brought into life and existence the largest number of the Grand Chapters within its jurisdiction, and the sound of the gavels of its subordinates is ringing on the slopes of the Pacific, both in the northern and southern hemispheres; through our widely-extended territories, as soon as civilization has penetrated their wilds, and beyond the seas, upon the shores of the distant Mediterranean; *useless!* when it has been the agent of strengthening and purifying Craft Masonry where it most needed strengthening and purifying.

"Utilitarianism itself must be silenced by such a volume of facts and experience."

"To which we reply, that every Mason who is at all read in his profession and its mysteries knows that all these results could and *would* have been attained just as well without the General Grand Chapter as with it; and that in no one thing has it benefited Capitular Masonry, since its organization, from its own essential peculiarities. Symbolic Masonry, and the results of its workings in this country, point unresistingly to the truth, that there is no utility in a National Grand body, either for it or for Capitular Masonry.

"Believing, then, that the time has come for some determined movement to be organized to break up this body, which has no utility, and no good purposes to

subserve, and that it is not too soon to move in the matter now, to the end that the opinions of our sister Grand Chapters on this point may be obtained before the next Triennial Convocation, we submit a resolution covering our views, and recommend that it be at once adopted; or, if too hasty action be deprecated, that it be referred to a committee on Masonic law and jurisprudence for a special report on the subject."

Although Grand High Priest Todd was very anxious to have our jurisdiction invaded, and Potomac Chapter placed under the control of a Grand Chapter outside of this District, he discourses eloquently about having his own jurisdiction invaded by those who have legally no such right. It makes some difference whose ox gets gored!

Just hear him:

"I have stated that Masonry, in its every branch and rite in this State, is working harmoniously and in perfect accord; but I must not omit to state that we are cursed now, as we have been in former years, with the presence in our midst of a clandestine and spurious body, calling itself the 'Supreme Council of the A. and A. S. Rite for the Sovereign and Independent State of Louisiana,' of which one Chassaignac is chief, and which consists of a few white men and a number of negroes. This body, of itself insignificant and of but little weight or influence, has acquired some importance from the recognition and countenance lately extended to it by the Grand Orient of France. There is but little doubt of the action of the Grand Lodge with regard to this infringement of its jurisdiction, and it is eminently proper that this body should also take prompt action in accordance therewith."

And so the committee on the Grand High Priest's address brought in the following resolutions, which were adopted, and so the Scotch Rite can form no more Lodges and Chapters in New Orleans, as they have done heretofore, under this pretended authority:

"Resolved, That all Masonic correspondence and fraternal relations between the M. E. Grand R. A. Chapter of Louisiana and of the Grand Orient of France cease and be discontinued, and no Mason, holding allegiance to that Grand body, be recognized as such in this jurisdiction.

"Resolved, That a duly-authenticated copy of the above report and resolution be transmitted to the Grand Orient of France, and to all regularly-constituted American Grand R. A. Chapters; and the R. E. Grand Secretary be directed to have printed immediately a sufficient number of copies to be sent to all American Grand R. A. Chapters and European Grand bodies, with the official seal and signature of the Grand Secretary; also, under the printed seal, for distribution to subordinate Chapters and prominent Masons throughout the United States."

MAINE.

This Grand Chapter, with thirty-two subordinate Chapters and 2,553 members, seems to be prosperous, and doing a good work in the "Pine Tree State." Its Annual Convocation was held at Portland, May 4, 1869, with a representation from thirty of her thirty-two Chapters.

Grand High Priest James M. Larrabee gave a good address, mostly occupied

with matters of local interest, although he made a few decisions where questions had been propounded involving interesting points in Masonic law and jurisprudence.

Deputy Grand High Priest Joseph Pearson Gill, of Lewiston, made an interesting report, from which we make the following quotation, which is well suited to the latitude of Washington, where our new Masonic Temple looks so much more inviting than the anaconda den where we have been obliged to assemble for several years past:

"It is a matter well understood and appreciated, that to meet in places devoid of attractiveness, and possessing other objectionable features, is meritorious and praiseworthy in the highest degree when, through the stress of circumstances, other places of assembling cannot be had; but man, having had implanted in him by his Creator a love of the beautiful and ornamental and of order, and a sense of the propriety of the fitness of things, cannot rest content with inferior places for habitual resort; he naturally seeks those which afford him more comfortable and healthful accommodations, and which gratify his æsthetic faculties. If Masonic bodies would always bear this in mind, they would undoubtedly have far less occasion to complain of the failure of their members to attend or to remain until the close of the proceedings, or of the lack of interest and success in the performance of the work."

Companion Drummond, for the committee on jurisprudence, made the following report, which was adopted, and so Maine took a long step in the right direction:

"*Resolved*, That the candidates who are actual Past Masters must nevertheless take the Past Master's degree in the Chapter.

"*Resolved*, That the use of '*substitutes*,' in conferring the Royal Arch degree, is strictly prohibited; and if any violation of this regulation shall come to the knowledge of the Grand High Priest, it shall be his duty to discipline the offending Chapter."

And so another State is added to the number that strictly prohibit Royal Arch Masons from violating their obligations. On this subject, Companion Drummond further says, about substitutes: "It is admitted that their use is wrong and unmasonic; still there does not seem to be firmness enough (in some States) to prevent it. Subordinates, for the mere accommodation of candidates, are allowed to violate the law. Now, let us in Maine do one of two things: either adhere strictly to the law, or on our own responsibility strike from the charges and ritual everything in relation to it. Consistency to a decent extent *demands* the one or the other."

Companion Drummond is in error in regard to Texas allowing substitutes to be used, as the following resolution, adopted and cut from the proceedings for 1869, shows:

"Whereas it is reported to this Grand Chapter that its edict, enacted at the Annual Convocation in A. D. 1866, prohibiting the use of substitutes, has not been obeyed by some of the subordinates; be it

"*Resolved*, That any subordinate Chapter hereafter using substitutes during the ceremonies of the Royal Arch degree shall thereby forfeit its charter, and it shall be the duty of any Grand officer coming to the knowledge thereof to

report the same without delay to the M. E. Grand High Priest for his immediate action."

The report on foreign correspondence was made by E. Comp. Josiah H. Drummond, one of the best writers and most talented Masons in the United States. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters our own included. He states that we were in error last year in calling him "a strong advocate of the General Grand Chapter." He contends that he holds allegiance to it, and can only be released by action of the General Grand Chapter. In this opinion he differs from the learned Companions in all the States that have seceded from the General Grand Chapter, and from those in States that never recognized it. Divorces are obtained without the consent of both parties to the original agreement to matrimony. He reviews the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter and its action respecting our Grand Chapter with such force and clearness that we copy *verbatim* what he says on this subject, and beg all concerned to read it carefully:

"We dislike to question the wisdom of action of which we only have the result, but it seems to us that the action in regard to Potomac Chapter is a dangerous precedent. We at first supposed that it was adopted as a compromise, and by the consent of all concerned. But if the statement in the second resolution, that it 'not having united in the formation of the Grand Chapter,' is the *reason* of its being under the General Grand Chapter, we beg to enter our dissent to the doctrine, while we admit we are bound by the decision. We hold that when a Grand Lodge or Chapter is formed legally in a jurisdiction, all the subordinates at once come under its authority. As well might it be said that those not voting upon, or voting against a constitution in forming a civil government, are not subject to that government. The doctrine is as fallacious and dangerous when applied to Masonic government as when applied to civil government.

"In view of the firmness with which this Grand Chapter has adhered to its obligations in reference to the General Grand Chapter, many Companions have assumed that we are strong advocates of its utility. This is an error. In the past we have more than once questioned its utility: and we have viewed with surprise and disgust the course of some Grand Chapters in cutting aloof from it; if they had remained, it would soon have been easy to procure its dissolution by its own act; but they have taken just the course to keep it in life and to make it a source of dissension, as it always must be when not recognized by a minority of Grand Chapters respectable in number.

"We looked forward with much interest to the late Convocation; and we are obliged to say that we are much disappointed. The hospitality of the St. Louis Companions was so great, that the festivities seem to have been the chief feature of the occasion. To them business was subordinated, as it appears. The result is, that the legislation appears hasty and crude, and the decisions ill digested and of questionable correctness in many respects. This evil is not inherent, and may be avoided.

"But its action and the present condition of the controverted questions are very strong arguments in favor of a General Grand Chapter with *actual* powers, and with firmness enough to exercise them.

"The different views in relation to the controversy between the Grand Chapters

of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and the fatal mischief that must result from the continuance of a controversy until settled by the parties to it, demonstrate the necessity for an arbiter or judge with sufficient power to enforce the decision.

"Now, while we hold that all matters solely affecting the interest of a particular Grand Chapter should be *finally* and *freely* determined by that Grand Chapter, we also hold that in the settlement of all matters which concern the whole body of the craft, the whole body of the craft should have a voice. As that voice cannot be uttered by them as a body, it should be done by their representatives. The General Grand Chapter is a Convocation of those representatives. The question of obedience to the General Grand Chapter reduces to this, shall the general voice of the Craft in matters affecting it as a whole be obeyed? Or shall Grand Chapters be allowed to peril the existence of the Craft on the plea of independence? We are of the opinion that any Companion who is not willing, even as against his own interests, to submit to the general voice of the Craft in all matters affecting the general weal, is scarcely worthy to be a Royal Arch Mason. The fears of assumption of power by a General Grand body is a fear to trust the general body of the Craft, and is, therefore, unfounded.

"In the past we have thought that no questions can practically arise which would not be settled by the *moral* power of the decisions by Grand Chapters not interested, and therefore that a General Grand Chapter was useless. But the District of Columbia imbroglia shows this to be an error, and that a General Grand Chapter, with power to settle questions affecting the general interests, but without power in mere local matters, is not only *useful*, but *necessary*.

"Its next Convocation is in Baltimore, in 1871, when we trust the sentiment of the Craft will be found to accord with the views herein expressed."

What he says in regard to Maryland, while reviewing the proceedings of that Grand Chapter, should be read by every Companion in the District of Columbia and elsewhere. He states the case briefly as follows:

"The action of the General Grand Chapter, in relation to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, was the foundation of most of the business and discussions. We regret to find that that action has caused deep feelings of dissatisfaction in this Grand Chapter.

"The Grand High Priest, after stating the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter with more than "a spice of bitterness," proceeds to answer some of the arguments adduced upon the other side. He says the consent of his Grand Chapter to the formation of one in the District (if given at all) was upon the condition that it was *legally* formed.

"As, in all respects, (as we showed last year) it was *legally* formed, provided this consent was given, the condition was complied with."

The following sound advice to Maryland should be carefully considered by our kind Companions in that jurisdiction, because of the eminent source from whence it springs:

"Masonic Grand bodies possess the supreme authority in the last resort, legislative, judicial, and executive. Obedience to the General Grand Chapter involves obedience to its legislation, its decisions, and the execution of its decrees. We may consider its legislation mischievous, and its decisions wrong. But the

remedy is not in disobedience. The action must be acquiesced in till reversed in the legitimate manner. Bad laws may be repealed, and erroneous decisions may be corrected. But to allow those under authority to obey only such laws as they believe beneficial, and to acquiesce in only those decisions which they believe are correct, is subversive of all law, and substituting the will of the individual for government.

"The action of the General Grand Chapter of which Maryland complains is a solemn decision of that body, to which she is bound to submit until it is reversed. We hold the decision to be in some respects incorrect. But the trouble is, our notion of correctness would not suit our Maryland Companions any better than the decision itself. This fact illustrates the necessity of following the principles which we have above stated. But it is said, would you obey a decree clearly beyond the authority of a Masonic body to issue? We answer as we have once before answered a similar question: 'Suppose a citizen believes a certain law to be in violation of the divine law, what shall he do? Answer this and we will answer that. Our idea is, that the citizen, if he cannot secure the repeal of the law, must emigrate or rebel. If he rebels, and is successful, it is revolution: if he is not, it is rebellion, and a rebel's fate awaits him. The Mason, by a parity of reasoning, must withdraw from the Order or rebel. If he succeeds, it is revolution: if he fails, it is rebellion, and Masonic death by expulsion awaits *him*.'

"This doctrine is illustrated here. Maryland has determined to set at naught the decision and legislation of the General Grand Chapter. We trust, however, she will see the error of this course, and will abide her time. If the voice of the Craft sustains her, she will prevail; if the voice of the Craft is against her, can she refuse to yield?

"Companion Charles H. Ohr presented an excellent (in the main) report on correspondence, which we should be glad to notice at length, but have not the space. One of his positions in regard to the District of Columbia Grand Chapter seems to us to be the following: 'We gave consent to the formation of that Grand Chapter on condition that it was "legally formed;" it could not be "legally formed" without our consent, therefore it was *not* "legally formed;" therefore the condition upon which we gave our consent has not been performed; therefore we never gave our consent!'

"This, however, is not a specimen of his report, but is our rendering of a portion of it, which he will sometime wish he had not written."

In concluding his report on foreign correspondence Companion Drummond makes the following summary:

"We had intended to compare the footings with those of several past years, but the tables are so imperfect that we forbear. We cannot, however, help stating some known results that are perfectly startling to us. More than *three-quarters* of the Royal Arch Masons of the country are of less than ten years' standing! and *quite one-half* became so within less than *four* years! In 1860 there were 35,000; in 1866, scarcely 50,000; in 1869 there are 90,000. In Maine, in 1860, there were 600; in 1865, 1,200; in 1869 there are 2,800. Nor is this confined to Royal Arch Masonry. In Maine some 4,000 Master Masons in 1860 have become more than 14,000 in 1869."

Although the following table, which he gives, is imperfect, still it is the best we have seen:

Grand chapters.	Number of subordinates.	Members.	Exaltations.	Admissions and restorations.	Dismissals.	Expulsions.	Suspensions.	Exclusions.	Deaths.	Rejections.
Alabama.....	70	2,523	177	82	194	4	7	214	56	14
Arkansas (a).....	45	1,310	117	24	82	1	.....	92	29	.....
California.....	35	1,546	206	52	125	.....	9	26	11	11
Canada.....	30	1,206	195	14	46	.....	26	.....	6	.....
Connecticut.....	27	3,066	374	12	17	2	1	.....	42	.....
Delaware.....	4	129	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
District of Columbia.....	5	582	127	12	19	1	.....	32	3	1
Florida (b).....	16	510	94	23	23	2	1	13	8	.....
Georgia (c).....	52	2,109	151	45	46	1	9	.....	13	12
Illinois.....	132	6,981	1,208	70	232	10	39	.....	60	107
Indiana.....	74	2,863	816	95	223	10	36	.....	36	.....
Iowa (d).....	46	1,688	330	18	80	1	7	5	9	.....
Kansas.....	10	351	59	12	16	.....	2	11	4	7
Kentucky.....	87	3,701	457	60	161	3	42	.....	40	31
Louisiana.....	24	1,400	69	18	58	.....	1	11	33	2
Maine.....	31	2,553	345	.....	45	.....	1	.....	24	26
Maryland, &c.....	11	877	107	9	15	1	1	.....	9	5
Massachusetts.....	44	5,065	619	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Michigan.....	65	4,487	735	137	124	15	29	.....	28	124
Minnesota.....	17	.....	91	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mississippi.....	72	2,576	105	134	147	3	2	433	54	.....
Missouri.....	44	2,014	370	81	97	.....	4	.....	13	23
Nebraska (e).....	3	200	59	13	8	1	.....	.....	3	3
New Hampshire.....	13	1,333	235	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Jersey.....	21	1,193	284	1	39	1	9	.....	11	.....
New York.....	156	13,232	2,149	137	282	2	.....	284	148	.....
North Carolina.....	20	1,048	40	14	25	2	.....	9	14	.....
Ohio (f).....	103	5,330	950	80	219	8	41	52	48	7
Oregon.....	5	167	28	4	15	.....	.....	3	.....	.....
Pennsylvania (g).....	56	3,780	876	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rhode Island.....	9	913	157	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	24
South Carolina.....	29	674	137	17	18	3	19	.....	11	.....
Tennessee.....	73	3,551	451	37	143	5	12	.....	38	.....
Texas.....	63	3,173	.....	10	124	3	1	80	119	1
Vermont.....	23	1,382	140	.....	21	.....	2	.....	12	.....
Virginia (i).....	30	1,507	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	83	20	.....
Wisconsin (j).....	38	2,271	292	62	119	1	3	.....	22	32
	1,583	87,231	12,550	1,273	2,763	82	304	1,353	936	446

MARYLAND.

The committee on foreign correspondence have received from our Grand Secretary a pamphlet purporting to be the "proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA!" It has an inscription upon it, "N. D. Larner, from his friend, George A. Hanson." Like all cenotaphs and monuments, it has a good inscription upon it. It has also a bright yellow cover, and hence must be called "yellow-covered literature." It shines like a mackerel by moonlight, in this buttercup cover. The outside appearance gave no indica-

(a.) No returns from thirteen Chapters.

(b.) No returns from three.

(c.) No returns from eight.

(d.) No returns from two.

(e.) For 1867.

(f.) For 1867.

(g.) No returns from eleven.

(h.) No returns from nine.

(i.) No returns from seven.

(j.) No returns from one.

tion of its belligerent character, however, for inside are gunpowder plots worthy of Guy Fawkes. Plans for our destruction are as numerous on its pages as leaves on the trees or sands on the sea-shore. The explosive material is found on every page. Gunpowder and nitro-glycerine show themselves everywhere. How fortunate it is that none of this saltpetre has killed our Grand Chapter!

The Most Eminent Grand High Priest, Dr. John L. Yeates, said he was too old and feeble to take charge of this Grand Chapter any longer, so declined a reelection, and Dr. Charles H. Ohr was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest. The Companions of Maryland were satisfied that no one but a doctor could take care of their Grand Chapter in its present condition. Alas, for the followers of Æsculapius, when such things happen! In laying down the scalpel and tenaculum, to take up the pen and scissors, they bid the medical world adieu, to immortalize their names on the niche of fame in the Masonic calendar.

"Oblivion's shadows close
Around their triumphs and their woes.
On other realms, whose suns have set,
Reflected radiance lingers yet;
There, sage and bard have shed a light
That never shall go down in night;
There, time-crowned columns stand on high
To tell of them who cannot die."

The medico-chirurgical treatment which Doctor Yeates gives the Grand Chapter of Maryland excites our sympathy. His code of medical ethics is peculiar to Maryland. We fear that inflammation covers the entire cerebrum, cerebellum, and medulla-oblongata. Or, it is certain that there is sufficient accumulation of blood in the capillaries to cause hyperemia. The pathological condition of the doctor and further deductions from craniology will be referred to in future.

The Grand High Priest's address is about as full of sorrow as the law allows. The lamentations of Jeremiah were nothing to be compared to the utterances of Dr. Yeates, in detailing an account of his visit to the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, and the recognition of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia by that august body. The circumstantial account of Dr. Yeates is of a serio-comical nature. He tells us exactly how it happened that Maryland got whipped in the contest.

According to his own interpretation of the original arrangements before the committee of the General Grand Chapter, everything was as Maryland desired. A committee was packed of men favorable to Maryland, with the Quixotic Coffinberry at its head. Dr. Yeates says this special committee "agreed upon a unanimous report, denouncing the so-called Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as illegal and clandestine, possessing no valid existence, which report was to have been presented immediately on the meeting of the General Grand Chapter, ordered for the following morning; but the opening of that meeting having been delayed for a considerable time from causes to us unknown, two of the committee were for some reasons induced to withdraw their names from the report agreed upon, and prepare another, which was presented as the report of the minority."

Then he says that this wicked minority brought in the following resolution, which, strange to say, passed by an overwhelming majority:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is hereby recognized as a regular Grand Chapter, and its officers entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter."

"I knew the truth would crush the lie:
Somehow, sometime, the end would be;
Yet scarcely dared I hope to see,
The triumph with my mortal eye."—*Whittier*.

Then the delegates from the District of Columbia were admitted, and the agony was over. No sooner did this take place, than the venerable doctor caught his hat, and in a towering passion started for the door, followed by the Maryland delegation. It was a regular McClellan retreat, after having lost the battle. The casualties were not numerous. One excellent Companion from Maryland had an attack of nostalgia, and started straightway for home, singing "Maryland, my Maryland;" another had a hemorrhage of words in the ante-room, but the attack was not dangerous, as he was kindly cared for by an Ohio Companion. So great was the satisfaction of the General Grand Chapter to ascertain that no serious calamity had befallen our kind Maryland Companions, that this Grand body voted to have its next triennial convocation in Baltimore. Of course, Maryland will receive them with open arms, and a countenance as open as that presented by an alligator.

It is never interesting to hear a man tell the particulars how he got whipped, and so we will quote no more of the Grand High Priest's address.

He tells his Companions that he hopes they will all vindicate his conduct in retreating from the General Grand Chapter, which he regards as very sour grapes, and winds up in a snarl of dissatisfaction and dyspepsia. In conclusion he throws a quivering lance at Grand Master Palmer, for presuming to tell Knights Templar in Washington that clandestine and expelled Royal Arch Masons could not be knighted or remain in membership in the Commanderies. He says that between Royal Arch Masons and Knights Templar the "connecting links are only those of consent and courtesy!" Perhaps he will conclude that it is not necessary to be a Royal Arch Mason in good standing to become a Templar, and if so, he had better abolish the degrees below.

Dr. Yeates, like all the Maryland Companions, seems to forget that we have honor, justice, Masonic law, and jurisprudence, on the side of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and this won the battle at St. Louis.

"Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just,
And he but naked, though locked up in steel,
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted."—*Shakespeare*.

The entire proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, seem to be one continued attack on the peaceful and flourishing Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. Nothing can equal the bitterness exhibited.

"A hideous figure of their foes they draw,
Nor lines, nor looks, nor shades nor colors true,
And this grotesque design expose to view,
And yet the daubing pleases."—*Dryden*.

Two or three Companions who went from Washington to Baltimore to witness the scenes at this Annual Convocation, declare that it was worth their journey for forty miles, even "over frozen ground." The Companions in Baltimore

gathered around their Grand High Priest to hear him relate his sufferings and trials at St Louis; and recount his experiences while on the war-path west of the Mississippi. They looked up to him with a degree of admiration unsurpassed in the annals of Maryland. He showed how he argued with the assembled wisdom of the General Grand Chapter, and how he vanquished them :

"In *arguing* too, the doctor owned his skill,
For e'en though *vanquished* he could argue still;
While words of learned length and thundering sound,
Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around,
And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew."—*Goldsmith*.

When Grand High Priest Yeates had poured out all his vials of wrath on our defenceless heads, and the stream was dried up, the following wonderful letter directed to H. J. Alvord, an expelled Royal Arch Mason, was read by W. Morris Smith, also an expelled Royal Arch Mason. Although it come from an obscure town in Michigan, from some one unknown in Masonry, yet it was ordered to be printed with the proceedings, as the only crumb of comfort received from abroad :

"CONSTANTINE, MICHIGAN, *October 17, A. L. 5868.*

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: Peace be with you.

"I concur in your views touching the status of Potomac Chapter. It is a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, duly authorized and empowered to work by virtue of a lawful Chapter, acknowledging its allegiance to the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia. The General Grand Chapter, by virtue of its own Constitution is prohibited from any interference with it, or with the rights of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia. Should Potomac Chapter go on and make Royal Arch Masons, how could they be clandestinized? I think you will find that our Grand Chapter will not recognize the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and will speak significantly in relation to the assumptions of the General Grand Chapter touching its usurpation in the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

"Yours, as ever, fraternally,

"S. C. COFFINBURY."

The above letter proved a powerful tonic to Maryland in the hour of her sorrow, and hence was paraded before the public in the printed proceedings. It is well known that Maryland selected her own committee for General Grand High Priest Lewis to appoint, to try the case, *Maryland vs. District of Columbia*. It is also well known that this same Companion Coffinbury from this obscure town in Michigan turned up at St. Louis, as chairman of the committee. Dr. Yeates tell us in his address that Companion Coffinbury had his report written and signed by the committee; but two of them, after learning the facts in the case, saw that our Grand Chapter was all right, and withdrew their names from the report.

Then this Companion Coffinbury, from this obscure town in Michigan, uncorked the vials of his wrath, and is it any wonder that he could help giving the above very remarkable opinion?

For further particulars in regard to Companion Coffinbury, see the review of Michigan.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland appointed Companions Ohr, Dudley, and Hanson, a special committee on the District of Columbia. This committee made a report on the second day, which is a solid chunk of wisdom. There is not only a Coffinbury, but a Dogberry style throughout the report.

"The literal sense is hard to flesh and blood
But nonsense never could be understood"—*Dryden*.

The committee state that the action of the General Grand Chapter has "no binding force on this or any other State Grand Chapter." They declare it to be "a nullity, and as such we repudiate it." This special committee is even more severe on the General Grand Chapter of the United States than their Grand High Priest, Dr. Yeates, in his valedictory address. Yet, after all their denunciation, they do not propose to secede from their allegiance to the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

As the following resolutions were adopted we will give them verbatim:

"*Resolved 1*, That the action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in regard to the District of Columbia, is in direct violation of its Constitution, and therefore null and of no effect, and has no binding force.

"*Resolved 2*, That a State Grand Chapter has no right to violate its constitution and adhere to such action, and that the General Grand Chapter is more restricted in this respect.

"*Resolved 3*, That we request the several State Grand Chapters to review their action and take into consideration all the facts in the case, and adopt measures in accordance therewith.

"*Resolved 4*, That this Grand Chapter believes that she has now placed herself in her proper position, and will maintain her rightful authority over every foot of the original territory of the State of Maryland.

"*Resolved 5*, That the sentence heretofore pronounced by this Grand Chapter against her recusant subordinates and their members, is hereby reaffirmed, and all those true to their allegiance are required to take due notice thereof and act accordingly."

We hope that the several Grand Chapters called upon in this third resolution to review their action will not all speak at once, so as to make confusion among the Craft. We hope none of them will call special Convocations to obey this order of Maryland, and we think there is no danger of it.

The fourth resolution contains the most terrible threat of all this glowing series. It is nothing less than a promise to take "every foot of the original territory of the State of Maryland." As the District of Columbia was once a part of Maryland, we foresee the projected war coming. Baltimore intends to capture Washington, and with it our Grand Chapter. As we have stood a four years' siege, we have ardent hopes that we can live through another war. Justice sits on her throne here, in the court city of the Republic, and shields us from impending danger. Should our capture be attempted, we should sound the talismanic cry of the Royal Craft in ancient days: "To your tents, O Israel!"

Then we should see approaching from the duelling ground at Bladensburg this corps, armed to the teeth to carry out this threat. There they would stand, on the very spot where the British fought in the war of 1812, and where so many eminent men have satisfied their wounded honor by shooting at the stars. We

should then behold the valiant doctor, armed with surgical instruments too numerous to mention, in command of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, while the right wing would be commanded by Grand Scribe Faulkner, and the left, by the gigantic Grand Treasurer. With such a corps, success would be certain, although its appearance might rival Falstaff's recruits at Coventry. As we cannot draw blood on our Royal Arch Companions of Maryland, we shall festoon the road to Bladensburg with flags of truce, and from every plantation flag-staff and telegraph-pole, our heart's desire will wave in the eyes of the invaders: "Let us have peace."

SUPPLEMENTARY, DECEMBER, 1869.

"There's a midnight darkness changing into gray;
Men of thought, and men of action, clear the way!
Lo! a cloud's about to vanish from the day!
Lo! the right's about to conquer; clear the way!
And a broken wrong to crumble into clay.
With that right shall many more
Enter, smiling, at the door;
With that giant wrong shall fall
Many others, great and small,
That for ages long have held us for their prey;
Men of thought, and men of action, clear the way!"—*Charles Mackay.*

All hail Maryland! Our *alma mater* extends to us at last the right hand of fellowship! The glad tidings come officially, that she has opened her hand to grasp us once again, and to welcome us into the great family of Grand Chapters throughout the world. Right heartily do we grasp the hand she tenders, and, with tear-dimmed eyes and overflowing hearts, accept the greeting with that fraternal spirit becoming the occasion. Our blood thrills us with pleasurable emotions, and each radial artery indicates the generous flood that fills each heart. Like the Syracusan greeting between Damon and Pythias, let each of us now swear eternal confidence in each other, and resolve that henceforth the spirit as well as the letter of reciprocal fraternity shall be established so strong that storms can never rend it asunder. We cannot doubt the sincerity and honesty of purpose with which our Maryland Companions perform this act of justice to us. We cannot doubt that it springs from their hearts, and is prompted by that most excellent purpose, to do away with all that bitterness of feeling that has characterized this contest. We therefore resolve to hurl into oblivion all the wounded pride and feeling of resentment that has ever shown itself in the District of Columbia, and we now turn over a new page, and on its bright, clear face we inscribe this resolution. We will not allow our fraters in Maryland, to out-do us in their acts of Masonic courtesy. If the mother loves the child, how much more should the child love the mother? Forgetting the past, let us resolve that the future shall glow with a bright picture of Capitular Masonry in both our jurisdictions. We are both flourishing and happy. No ten years ever saw so many fraters exalted as Companions in Washington as have the last three. There seems to be no parallel to the prosperity that has greeted us in the District of Columbia. We have exalted more Companions in our six Chapters the past year than some States with forty or fifty subordinate Chapters have exalted during the same time. *Felicitas multos habet amicos.*

The annual Convocations of the Grand Chapters of Maryland and the District of Columbia are held on the same evening. While we were in Convocation here we had no knowledge of the contemplated action of Maryland. The foregoing report on Maryland by this committee was then adopted, and reviews last years proceedings; thus forming the link in the chain of Royal Arch Masonry which has bound us together. When the official action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland was received, the Grand High Priest called our Grand Chapter in Special Convocation to receive and act on these resolutions. By vote of the Grand Chapter, this committee received directions to make a supplement to their report on Maryland. The pleasure derived by your committee in complying with this request, can hardly be expressed in words.

"Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit."

"There's a language that's mute; there's a silence that speaks;
There is something that cannot be told;
There are words that can only be read on the cheeks;
And thoughts—but the eye can unfold."

We know how desirous our many kind fraters are, all over the United States and all over the world, to see this long and bitter controversy ended. We know how they will rejoice to learn that these fraternal greetings have at last been made by Maryland. And we wish them to learn by reading these proceedings how desirous we are in the District of Columbia to carry out sincerely the words of our great chieftain, "Let us have peace." Nothing that can be done at this time will be withheld to make this union complete in the Royal Arch of our Grand Chapters, and to bury forever all strife, bitterness, and dissensions. Let us bury the tomahawk, and sit down and smoke the pipe of peace.

In order to do this effectually we must forget the past and look steadfastly into the future, forgiving each other for any errors of either the head or the heart.

"When streams of unkindness, as bitter as gall,
Bubble up from the heart to the tongue,
And meekness is writhing in torment and thrall,
By the hands of ingratitude wrung;
In the heat of injustice, unwept and unfair,
While the anguish is festering yet,
None, none but an angel of God can declare:
I now can forgive and forget.

But if the bad spirit is chased from the heart,
And the lips are in penitence steeped,
With the wrong so repented, the wrath will depart,
Though scorn on injustice were heaped;
For the best compensation is paid for all ill,
When the cheek with contrition is wet,
And every one feels it is possible still
At once to forgive and forget."—*Tupper.*

MASSACHUSETTS.

Stated Convocations of this Grand Chapter were held at the new Masonic Temple in Boston, March 10, June 9, October 13, and December 8, 1868. The proceedings come to hand very beautifully printed on faultless paper, and have an air of wealth and refinement about them. Capitular Masonry seems to be

in a very flourishing condition in Massachusetts. There are 44 Chapters in the State, with over 5,000 members. There are 619 exaltations reported last year. The oldest Chapter in the State, and we believe the oldest one in the nation, is the famous St. Andrew's of Boston, chartered in 1769. Its High Priest is Comp. A. F. Chapman, so well known in Washington. This Chapter has 400 members, including some of the brightest intellects Capitular Masonry can boast.

At the first Stated Convocation of the Grand Chapter in March the following important report was adopted:

"M.: E.: Companion Chapman, in behalf of the committee appointed for that purpose, presented the following report:

"To the M.: E.: Grand High Priest, Officers, and Members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

"The committee appointed to consider the Ritual of the degrees of Past Master and Royal Arch, have carefully considered the subject, and respectfully beg leave to report: That the Ritual of the degree of Past Master shall be confined to the ceremonies of introduction, election, obligation, installation, and lecture, to be conferred without any intermission or interruption in the order of progression. And in the Royal Arch degree, the living arch shall be not less than three and one-half feet in height, and remain stationary while being used; and in the remaining ceremonies, the candidates for exaltation shall be under the exclusive control of the proper officers, and without interference by any other person.

"The committee further recommend that the High Priest of each Chapter shall be held responsible for the enforcement of the above regulations.

A. F. CHAPMAN.

SOLOM THORNTON.

JOHN W. DADMUN.

Companion Henry Chickering was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion Thomas Waterman, of Boston, Grand Secretary.

Companion Alfred F. Chapman was elected Deputy Grand High Priest, and our old friend Rev. Companion John W. Dadmun, committee on foreign correspondence. Companion Dadmun we all remember as a friend of our Grand Chapter, and one who will not be likely to commit errors respecting our Grand Chapter, for want of proper information, as his predecessor has so often done. Massachusetts has done honor to herself by this excellent appointment. We sing his music in all our Chapters; and sing his praises whenever his name is mentioned in Washington.

It seems by the proceedings in June, 1868, that Massachusetts was unanimous in her desire to sever her connection with the General Grand Chapter of the United States. At that Convocation the following resolution passed the Grand Chapter without a vote in the negative

"On motion of M.: E.: Companion Thornton, it was *voted* unanimously, that the delegates from this Grand Chapter to the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be requested to use their most earnest efforts to obtain a dissolution of said General Grand Chapter; and, fail-

ing to obtain such a dissolution, to seek a peaceable withdrawal therefrom agreeably to the obligations of Royal Arch Masons."

Instead of the first four officers of the Grand Chapter attending the session at St. Louis, as they ought to have done, they all sent proxies except one.

These proxies made a report at the October session of the Grand Chapter which is quite racy, and has a flavor of humbug about it. They were plainly instructed to burst up the General Grand Chapter if they could; if not, to quietly withdraw from it.

They forgot to do either of these things. Arriving home, they advertised for some apology for not doing as ordered. They begun to "scratch gravel" to find a decent excuse. Not finding any, they unbosomed the facts. They state that they were "*treated* with a hospitality that knew no limit whatever, but our capacity to enjoy it." By a careful examination of the report it seems they had the "capacity." They say they were "taken to every place of interest," and they now "look back upon the pleasant moments spent there." Each one seemed to resolve himself a Mark Tapley.

They say they had a "splendid banquet;" and a steamboat excursion down the river next day. They say it "required three steamboats to carry the whole party," and they were "well filled with ladies in gay dresses," as well as Royal Arch Masons and Templars.

They seemed to have an indistinct recollection that something was done about the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, but were unable to procure correct information.

So this committee apologized to the Grand Chapter when they got home, and said they did not see any favorable time to secede!

They think St. Louis is the Eden of America, and can truly exclaim:

"Westward once from Eden guiding,
Was the light of Bethlehem shed;
Like the pillared blaze abiding
O'er the wandering Hebrew's head.
Westward still, the world alluring,
Hath the risen day-star beamed,
And, the sinking soul assuring,
O'er the world's wide ocean streamed."

MICHIGAN.

We have received a volume of two hundred and eighteen pages containing the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, which was held at Detroit, January 11, 12, and 13, 1869, fifty-eight of the sixty-five Chapters answering roll-call.

Grand High Priest George C. Munro delivered an address giving detailed information on local business within the jurisdiction.

Companion J. Eastman Johnson, Grand Secretary, offered the report on foreign correspondence. In this report he cannot find room for anything which any Grand Chapter says about the District of Columbia, except the insane ravings of South Carolina. This shows conclusively where his sympathies are.

He acknowledges the receipt of the proceedings of our Grand Chapter for 1868, in an appendix, together with those of several other Grand Chapters.

He reflects the unjust and unmasonic feelings which seems to have addled the heads of a few misguided Companions in Michigan respecting our Grand Chapter.

It will be remembered that Companion Coffinbury, of Michigan, got himself appointed, in the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, chairman of the special committee on the District of Columbia, and there brought down the indignation and censure of a majority of the General Grand Chapter by his unfair and illiberal course respecting our Grand Chapter. So plain was the persecution, as seen by all, that a reaction took place in our favor, and his violent course did us great good.

At this Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Michigan he again brought in the subject, and got himself appointed chairman of a special committee on the District of Columbia. Defeated in the General Grand Chapter a few months previous, he wished to carry his points in his own Grand Chapter, but here he met with a Waterloo defeat, where he and his resolutions were ordered to "lie on the table." It was unnecessary to order him to LIE on the table, or anywhere else, as will be seen, for he could do it without orders.

By referring to the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, where a bombastic letter is printed from him, it will be seen that he threatened that the Grand Chapter of Michigan should not recognize the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. He tried to carry out his threat, but the good sense and high character of the Grand Chapter of Michigan were too much for him, and here again he was defeated. Oh, Salathiel! Salathiel!

He brought into the Grand Chapter what purported to be a statement of our case, divided into fourteen parts, with seven resolutions appended, all full of Munchausen stories, so incredulous that nobody believed them, and so they were all laid on the table. Thus endeth Coffinbury, or Dogberry, or whatever they call him in Michigan. Daylight shone in the Grand Chapter when "more light" was let in; and the following resolution was adopted:

"Companion Shank offered the following, which was adopted:

"Whereas this Grand Chapter did at its last Convocation 'forbid and interdict its subordinate Chapters, and the members thereof, any and all intercourse' with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, or with any Chapter claiming authority under the same, or with the members of such Chapters; and

"Whereas the General Grand Chapter did at its last meeting recognize said Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as regular; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That said resolution has no longer any binding force."

MINNESOTA.

The Eighth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held at St. Paul October 26, 1868, ten of the seventeen Chapters answering roll-call. Grand High Priest Dearborn delivered an able address, full of the true spirit of Masonry. It seems that their hall was destroyed by fire last year, and all the property and records of the Grand Chapter were burned.

We extend our sympathies and regrets at this severe affliction to this young and vigorous Grand Chapter.

They request all Grand Secretaries to forward to them copies of proceedings for as many years past as possible, to supply the loss by fire.

Companion A. T. C. Pierson presented the report on foreign correspondence. The following gives an idea of the accuracy of his report on other subjects :

"When or where was Washington Master of a Lodge? We are aware that a dispensation for a Lodge was issued by a Grand Master of Virginia, and as the name George Washington appears first, some over-zealous Masons have ventured the statement that Washington was the Master. There is no record anywhere, not even a tradition, that he ever presided over a Lodge."

It is not necessary to tell any Companion in Washington city that this assertion is not true, particularly those who have sat in the old Lodge-room in Alexandria, where Washington used to sit while presiding over his Lodge as Master, and have used the gavel that he formerly used as Master. Within sight of what is now the national capital, Washington assumed the duties of Worshipful Master over Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, April 28, 1788, while Edmund Randolph, then governor, was Grand Master of Virginia.

In speaking of Companion Ezra L. Stevens' conduct in the Grand Chapter of Maryland, Companion Pierson says :

"Had his advice been taken, the District of Columbia troubles would not have occurred. None have ever attempted to criticise his review of the District of Columbia matter as contained in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, none, but we forbear for fear we may let in light, where, as matters now stand, darkness is preferable."

We will let in "more light" on this subject, "as matters now stand." Companion Stevens, without any authority whatever, invited Companion Pierson to come here in 1867 and institute our Grand Chapter. No "troubles" would have occurred if Companion Pierson had been invited to perform that service, and Companion Stevens elected to an office in our Grand Chapter, which did *not* occur, and so he left our Grand Chapter, in which he sat and acted, and went to Maryland, where he was "taken in" without any dimit. Our Grand Chapter was installed without the valuable services of Companion Pierson, and will live and flourish when Companion A. T. C. Pierson will be forgotten.

MISSISSIPPI.

We received last year, just as the printer had given us the proof-sheet of the report on foreign correspondence, the proceedings of this Grand Chapter. We merely acknowledged their reception, but could not review them, as they came too late. For this sin of omission, and *not* commission, the distinguished chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence, Companion William S. Patton, gives us the following rebuke :

"The report on foreign correspondence is by Companions French, Mason, and Stephens. It is well written; reviewing the proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters; Mississippi at the outset merely named as one of them; but like the whale that swallowed Jonah, is never heard of any more. We may suppose our District Companions conclude that Mississippi is so far in the backwoods, we are hardly worth noticing, especially so far as the District of Columbia is

concerned. That's all right, Companions, we will always give you a passing notice, when you condescend to favor us with a copy of your proceedings."

We tender to our learned and much esteemed Companion, our regrets and apologies, and beg leave to say that we read no proceedings with more lively interest than those of Mississippi. The writer, during a former residence in Mississippi, had the pleasure of an acquaintance with many of the eminent Masons of that State, and can testify to their ability and zeal, erudition and Masonic attainments. We beg our Mississippi Companions to grasp the fraternal hand we tender, and accept our love and esteem.

The proceedings for 1868 are handsomely printed, and well filled with valuable information. Grand High Priest Lusher opens his excellent address with the following report on the situation :

"I have no flattering report of the increased or increasing prosperity of R. A. Masonry in this jurisdiction. No dispensation for new Chapters has been issued, nor have the accessions to our numbers been as great as in years that have passed. The Chapters have not recovered from the effects of the late strife in our land. Nearly if not all of them had suspended during the war. Although most have been reorganized, yet they still suffer heavily from the financial distress and the general deficiency of resources which still prevails. Notwithstanding, it is pleasing to say that harmonious intercourse has been maintained among the members of the Arch, and that 'peace and harmony' generally prevails throughout our jurisdiction. I trust that a brighter day will soon dawn upon us, and that *all* our tabernacles will be again erected and our lights shine forth with increased brilliancy."

We trust a brighter day will dawn on our sister jurisdiction, and know well how they deserve prosperity.

The following, from Grand High Priest Lusher's address, is appropriate to other jurisdictions nearer home :

"I exceedingly regret that I feel myself compelled to call the attention of the Grand Chapter to the system of electioneering, wire-working, and log-rolling that has been practiced by members of the Grand Chapter to elect their particular friends to office. The principal officers I see no impropriety in changing, as the honors should not be held by one, but the offices of Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer should be changed as seldom as possible as long as the incumbents faithfully perform their duties. It takes several years for a Companion to become fully conversant with the duties of his office, and I deem it fatal to the interest of the Grand Chapter to make changes except for good and sufficient cause. This has been and is still the practice of all other Grand Chapters, and our own interest demands a similar course of action."

The following interesting account of a singular performance that took place in the Chapter at Vicksburg, and the subsequent action of the Grand Chapter, will be read with eager interest. It is taken from the address of G. H. P. Ferris for 1868 :

"Companion C. S. McClound, a Christian minister, while visiting Vicksburg Royal Arch Chapter, No. 3, was invited by the M. E. H. Priest to pray at close of the Chapter, and prayed 'through the merits of our great High Priest,

Jesus Christ, the son of God, our Saviour.' Immediately after the Chapter was closed Companion M. Bodenheim, the E. Scribe, with whom he was not personally acquainted, approached him in the Chapter room, in a manner said to be rude and angry, and said, 'Jesus Christ don't have any business here;' and, when remonstrated with, said, 'By God, Jesus Christ don't have any business here, and I won't stand it!' Companion D. S. Snodgrass, the Secretary, charged the Scribe 'with grossly unmasonic conduct,' and assigned as specifications, first, that he unnecessarily and grossly insulted a visiting Companion, and through him insulted the M. E. High Priest, who had invited him to pray; secondly, that he used the name of Deity in an 'irreverent manner.' On the trial Companion Bodenheim confessed the facts stated in the specifications, waived the examination of witnesses, and declined making any defence. When the ballot was taken there was a tie on the first specification, and the E. King, presiding as the M. E. High Priest, decided that the specification was not sustained. The second specification was sustained, and then the charge was sustained. The questions arising on these facts are as follows:

"1. Has a Companion the right to use the name of Jesus Christ in Chapter prayer?

"2. Has a Chapter the right to try charges preferred against its M. E. High Priest, E. King, or E. Scribe? And are the proceedings on such charges different from the proceedings against any other member of the Chapter?

"3. Did not the Chapter, in the ballot on the first specification, virtually decide that it is not unmasonic to grossly insult a visiting Companion, and lay itself liable to censure by such decision?

"My opinion on the first question was given substantially as follows:

"The Christian cannot approach the Throne of Grace otherwise than through the merits of Jesus Christ, since it is an article of his faith that it is only through Jesus Christ that we have access, by the Spirit, to the Father. Hence, to prohibit him from thus praying in the Chapter would be to preclude him from praying there at all. But every Companion has the right to pray there according to the dictates of his conscience. While deciding thus, I would advise every Companion to 'take heed, lest by any means this liberty become a stumbling block to them that are weak.' Jesus can be alluded to in the language of the Jewish Scriptures so that every Christian will understand the allusion, while every Israelite may make a different application of the words. I think it more consistent with Masonic charity to use such modes of expression, so that neither the Jewish nor the Christian conscience may be wounded.

"Upon the second question my decision was, that a Chapter has the right to try charges preferred against its E. King and E. Scribe; and the proceedings on such charges do not differ from the proceedings on charges against any other member of the Chapter. But when charges are preferred against the M. E. High Priest, they should be sent to the Grand High Priest, who should appoint a committee of Past High Priests to investigate the case and report to him. If he should deem the case sufficiently important, it is his duty to report it to the Grand Chapter, by whom the accused should be tried. This course is necessary, because the Chapter cannot deprive the High Priest of his right to preside over it, and he cannot with propriety preside when his own trial is pending.

"Upon the third question the papers in my hands are not sufficiently explicit to enable me to give a positive opinion. If the confession of the accused was intended as a plea of 'guilty,' the only question to be considered by the Chapter was what punishment should be inflicted. If, however, while confessing the facts, he denied their reprehensible character, the question before the Chapter was, whether it is unmasonic to insult a visiting Companion; and the vote of the Chapter decided this question in the negative, which was certainly a glaring and culpable error."

The committee to whom this subject was referred in the Grand Chapter reported at the Annual Convocation in January, 1869, as follows:

"Companion Stainback, on behalf of the committee on Masonic law, made the following report, which was received and adopted:

"The Committee on Masonic law, continued from last Convocation to prepare a report in regard to religious tolerance, discussed in the address of M.: E.: G.: H.: P.: W. D. Ferris, ask leave to submit the following preamble and resolutions:

"Whereas universal religious tolerance is a fundamental principle of our Order: therefore:

"*Resolved*, That the right of every Companion to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience must remain unimpaired.

"*Resolved*, That the insult offered to Companion McLeod, a Christian minister, who, at the request of the High Priest of Vicksburg Chapter, No. 3, closed the Chapter with prayer and preferred his requests to the Deity in the name of 'Jesus Christ our Saviour,' is deserving of severe censure, and the Companion offering this indignity should have been suspended from the Chapter on the charge of gross unmasonic conduct, which was preferred against him by its Secretary."

On the subject of substitutes in conferring the Royal Arch degree, they take the right ground. The Grand High Priest has the following in his address:

"October last I received the following telegram, signed by W. H. Stewart, High Priest of Natchez Chapter, No. 1: 'Emergency requires me to confer Chapter degrees with substitutes; will explain by letter.' Without waiting for promised letter, (which I never received,) I responded: 'No emergency can justify the use of substitutes in conferring the Royal Arch degree.' Last December I received information that Natchez Chapter, No. 1, had exalted a candidate by using substitutes. As this is a violation of the law, and in direct opposition to an especial edict of the Grand Chapter, passed at its last Annual Communication, I deem it my duty to lay the matter before you for your action."

The committee to whom this subject was referred in the Grand Chapter reported as follows:

"*To the M.: E.: Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi:*

"The committee on exaltations beg leave to report that this Grand Chapter, having heretofore declared the use of substitutes in exaltations a violation of the principles of Royal Arch Masonry,

"*Resolved*, That any Chapter in this jurisdiction violating this law shall forfeit its Charter."

"Whilst your committee are aware that it is a palpable violation of the ancient landmarks and the positive rules and regulations of this Grand Chapter, and from the age of said Chapter and the long Masonic experience of many of its worthy members we believe a severe reprimand should be inflicted, yet from the facts before your committee, we believe that it was an unintentional error of the presiding officer, in direct opposition to the wish of many of the members, a majority disapproving the act. Such being the facts, your committee would regret to see the innocent members made to suffer for an act they could not avoid. We would therefore respectfully offer the following:

"*Resolved*, That, under all the circumstances, Natchez Chapter, No. 1, be relieved from the penalty."

We have received the proceedings of the Annual Convocation held at Jackson, January 14, 15, 16, 1869. They reflect much credit on the Craft in Mississippi.

Companion William S. Patton, chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence, offered one of the most interesting reports we have read. He devotes six pages to the District of Columbia, and gives a full, fair, and truthful account of our situation and condition. He copies every word of our report last year on Maryland, and hence our Companions in Mississippi thoroughly understand our troubles and our triumphs.

He devotes eight pages to a review of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, and dissects the action of the General Grand Chapter in reference to Delaware and the District of Columbia, in a masterly manner with unanswerable arguments.

After giving the history of the struggles in Delaware and the District of Columbia, he concludes with the following opinion, which is so true that it ought to be emblazoned with letters of gold on tablets of silver:

"We do believe that the difficulties arising from the disagreement between the General Grand Chapter and State Grand Chapters, have been the cause of more discord and confusion in the ranks, and have impeded the onward march of Royal Arch Masonry more than any other cause now known to the Masonic world."

MISSOURI.

The Grand Chapter of Missouri met in Annual Convocation at St. Louis, October 7, 1868. Twenty-six Chapters responded to roll-call.

At this Convocation charters were granted to ten new Chapters, and eleven had been working under dispensation. There are 370 exaltations reported, and 2,014 members. Prosperity, peace, and happiness seem to smile on our Companions on the sun-set side of the Mississippi.

Royal Arch Masons, who attended the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, will never forget the good time they had with our Missouri Companions. They talk about St. Louis experiences in their sleep, and dream about them afterward. Our Washington Companions brought away reminiscences of St. Louis they will carry with them to their graves. It was a battle-field where we won a battle over wrong, injustice, and oppression, September 18, 1863.

Grand High Priest Collins has the following in his address, to which we say *amen*:

"I will conclude with a few suggestions regarding the proper qualifications of a candidate for the mysteries of Capitular Masonry, which I hope will not be lost on my Companions. I take it that ZEAL is the general password to the Royal Arch degrees, and therefore should be regarded as a test of qualification. If a brother seldom or never attends his Lodge, unless summoned to appear, no matter how good or clever a man he may be personally, his lukewarmness should be taken as evidence that he has had enough of Masonry. Has not Masonry, also, had enough of him? In a practical point of view, to what use can he be converted in rebuilding the Temple? He is neither 'oblong nor square,' and he certainly does not bear any of the regular marks of the Craft. We are taught to reject such material as unfit for the building, by a lesson which holds perfectly true, although in our exemplification of the truth it happened that something above our comprehension became the 'headstone of the corner.' As a general rule, there are no marks of a Mason whatever on a brother who neglects his Masonic duties in the Lodge, and here the law of rejection is imperative.

"With such lessons to teach, and such facts before us, why thoughtlessly cumber the building with rubbish? To unveil to such a candidate our solemn mysteries were little less than mockery. Let us not knowingly be guilty of such contempt for sacred things. To really enjoy a feast, a man ought to feel hungry. When a brother by petition expresses his wish to advance from the Lodge into the Chapter, careful inquiry should be instituted, not only as to his general intelligence and morals, but also as to his Masonic education and knowledge of the rites and mysteries, so far as he has received light. See to it that he has wrought honestly in the quarries, and exhibited specimens of his *own* skill; then reward him according to his merit. By observing this standard of qualification you will never be obliged to reject work, and no Mason will ever be dissatisfied with his wages."

The report on foreign correspondence was presented by our distinguished Companion, George Frank Gouley. In this he reviews the proceedings of twenty-five Grand Chapters, but ours is not among the number. His unkind review of our Grand Chapter the previous year undoubtedly exhausted his resources. But Companion Gouley has got "more light" on this subject now than he had then. He presents such a mass of statistics in his reviews of different Grand Chapters, that they look like one of Delmar's reports in the bureau of statistics. His autograph to the report is very handsome, and we looked at it sharply, to see if it did not have "32°" added to it. But it was not there, and so we will have to turn him over to Grand High Priest Bruns, of South Carolina. Companion Gouley was first brought to light as a Mason in this city, and here exalted and knighted, and this accounts for his unparalleled popularity and successful career west of the Mississippi. His old friends here would like to receive a visit from him, and take him by the hand.

NEBRASKA.

The Second Annual Convocation of the new Grand Chapter of Nebraska was held at Bellevue, June 23, 1868.

The R. A. Masons of this new State, so recently admitted into the Union, formed a new Grand Chapter about the same time that ours was formed in the District of Columbia. So our twin sister on the distant prairies of the far west will please accept our warmest congratulations and regards. We send our compliments to them on the sun-set side of the Missouri, and wish them success and prosperity.

Four Chapters are planted in this new State, where only a few years ago the deer, the wolf, and the buffalo held undisputed sway, and roamed over the ground where thriving towns and cities now stand.

"Westward the star of empire takes its way" is truly represented by this growing young State. We would like to wander over the plains of Nebraska, and along the cotton-wood river bottoms, and see the progress made along the Platte. And in this distant part of our great Republic, we would like to take the Royal Arch Masons by the hand,

"Where the crimson-tinted evening fades,
From the glowing saffron sky;
Where the sun's last beams
Light up woods and streams,
And brighten the gloom below;
And the deer springs by
With his flashing eye,
And the shy, swift-footed doe;
And the sad winds chide
In the branches wide,
With a tender plaint of woe."

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

We have received from the venerable Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter an advance copy of the corrected proof-sheet of the forthcoming proceedings for 1868 and 1869, which are bound in one volume. These sheets, now before us, do not contain the report on foreign correspondence, which the Grand Secretary states will soon be ready for distribution. We shall miss the handiwork of our venerable and learned Companion Horace Chase, who has compiled this report for so many years. But it has fallen into the hands of Companion John J. Bell, whose ability in Masonry no one in New England will question. "Like apples of gold in pictures of silver," it will delight the eye and ear of Masons when completed.

As the Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter and also the chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence first saw Masonic light in New Hampshire, the "Old Granite State" has anxious eyes turned toward her from the national capital.

The proceedings for 1868 and for 1869 show unusual prosperity in Capitular Masonry in all parts of the State. Three new Chapters have been chartered the past year at Exeter, Wilton, and Lancaster. There are seventeen Chapters in the State, with 1,325 members; also 199 exaltations the past year. The reports of Grand High Priest Cumner in his address, also those of Deputy Grand High Priest Marshall, Grand King Harris, and Grand Scribe Gustine, all relate to their visits to Chapters in the State, and show a degree of prosperity hitherto unknown.

In forwarding an advance copy of this report the venerable Grand Secretary writes his views on our Grand Chapter situation. Judge Chase is known as one of the ablest writers in the country on Masonic law and jurisprudence; and, after a careful analysis of the facts, gave his opinion early in 1867, that our Grand Chapter was legally formed and properly constituted.

He writes, under date of October 20, 1869, as follows:

"I was gratified to learn that the General Grand Chapter sustained my views, and recognized your Grand Chapter as legitimate, but was surprised that it should place a subordinate Chapter within the jurisdiction of your Grand Chapter in the anomalous position she did Potomac Chapter."

"The idea of the General Grand Chapter assuming jurisdiction over a subordinate Chapter within the jurisdiction of a regularly-constituted State or District Grand Chapter, in my humble estimation, reflects upon the wisdom of that august body. I think if the temper of Potomac Chapter is too high to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, the true policy would have been to let her lay out in the cold until her temper had cooled down."

'As Judge Chase is one of the oldest and most prominent Masons in the United States, his opinions are worth considering. He is also one of the warmest friends of the General Grand Chapter, whose action he denounces so sharply.

The sad news comes officially, that a bright star in the Granite State firmament of Masonry has gone out, and will no longer illuminate the Craft in New Hampshire. ASAHIEL ADAMS BALCH, an officer of the Grand Chapter, died last January, and the wail of woe and mourning has gone up from the Craft. This loved Companion gave the writer his first instructions in Masonry, and tenderly nursed the natural love for the Craft until it ripened into zeal. The "queen city of the Granite State" will find it difficult to fill his place. He drew the designs on the trestle-board, and kept the brethren at work. His energy, perseverance, and industry, coupled with his ability and zeal, made him beloved and useful to his fraters.

Suaviter in modo fortiter in re, post funera memoria sempiterna virtus.

Down by the Merrimack, clear and cold,
Where the day-star wanes in sun-set gold,
Under the crimson sky;
A warrior chief, in the war for right,
Laid off his mantle for robes of light,
And there laid down to die.

His helmet and baldric lay by his side,
His knighthood insignia and life-long pride,
Not with dishonor stained:
With the red cross clasping his noble breast,
The hero for right sank gently to rest,
With ebbing life-sands waned.

The Royal Arch with the cap-stone gone,
With aurora's rays at the earliest dawn,
Covered with morning sheen;
With the sprig of acacia, blooming and fair,
Entwined in a maiden's flowing hair,
Shall keep his memory green,

On the classic Potomac, a tear-dimmed eye,
 Held in that brotherly mystic tie,
 That Masons only know;
 Mourns and sorrows for the loved and lost,
 That death has taken at such a cost
 To Masons here below.

NEW JERSEY.

The Twelfth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held at Trenton, September 9, 1868, with a representation from seventeen of her twenty-one Chapters. Everything about this annual report shows a degree of prosperity that is gratifying among the Royal Craft in New Jersey. The Grand Chapter is in a healthy condition. It certainly ought to be, for the Grand High Priest is a doctor in medicine; the Grand Secretary is another; the chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence is another. Of course, this is a healthy Grand Chapter. We began to count the M. D's, on the list of members, but gave up the undertaking as a gigantic task. A diagnosis of them would unquestionably show a good *physic-all* condition.

People who know nothing about New Jersey, only what they see of it riding on a rail by the Camden and Amboy monopoly, have an idea that it is only a lump of mud, manufactured to hold New York and Philadelphia apart; but such is not the case.

It is a good State to live in, because it is full of warm Masonic hearts. Masonry flourishes there as well as peaches and "*garden sass*."

The address of Grand High Priest Mattison is one of the best we ever read, and if space would only allow it should be transferred to these columns entire. One act of his we hope will never be repeated. He granted a dispensation to the High Priest of "Three-Times-Three Chapter" at Trenton to exalt as Royal Arch Masons two candidates from Wilmington, Delaware, *at sight*. The whole Masonic world has frowned down this unmasonic practice of making Masons at sight, and we hope it will never be done again in New Jersey.

Our brother of the quill and scalpel, Companion Dr. Corson, reviews the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters. He offers many kind words for our Grand Chapter, and is evidently well posted on the history of our case. He mounts Pegasus and rides as well as in the fabled days of Bellerophon. A few things in his report are so tempting that we cannot help copying them.

The following is too good to keep in New Jersey :

"We have always been opposed to the habit of installing by proxy, as being wrong in principle and deleterious in practice. A man might as well be married or baptized, or even initiated, into our mysteries by proxy as to be installed in the same manner. No man can promise for another, nor would such a promise be valid. Ask Dr. Guilbert, of Iowa, what he would think of vaccination by proxy; and if he is as sound in medicine as he is in Masonry, he would tell you that it would be just as sensible as installation by the same means."

The following opinion of our status is "Jersey Blue," and gives an opinion of our legality as a Grand Chapter before the General Grand Chapter of the United States took action :

"We have no desire to enter into this discussion, because the whole matter will

very soon be authoritatively settled by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, whose edicts we must obey. We have an opinion, and a very decided one, on the subject, which is in favor of the new Grand Chapter; but we deem it unwise to enter upon this controversy, which is already marked by so much acerbity and harshness. It is not from any feeling of disrespect towards the Companions of this organization that we decline to make a fuller examination of the evidence *pro* and *con* offered to us; but simply because, in view of the fact that the General Grand Chapter will so soon settle the dispute, we think that no good could result from a more full expression of our views."

Dr. Guilbert, of Iowa, and Dr. Corson have been throwing lances at each other for several years. Some good rejoinders follow. Here is one from Dr. Guilbert too good to be lost:

"That species of toadyism indulged in by certain Masonic publications, and frequently by foreign correspondence committees, &c., I condemn and hate. Because a man may be a great soldier, a *reasonably* honest and sober governor, senator, or legislator, as things go now-a-days, I do not consider his civil position, *per se*, makes him of any special consequence to the Craft; and unless that man enjoyed a *well-earned* Masonic reputation, I would not bestow upon him, in a Masonic body over which I might preside, half as much attention as I should consider myself privileged to accord a hard-fisted and retiring brother, who was a faithful, efficient, and studious laborer in the Masonic vineyard. These mere rich men, soldiers, and civil officers shed no lustre on the Order, unless, as is rarely seen, they are *workers* in the hive. 'Honors are *not* easy,' so far as the relation between them and Masonry is concerned. Their investment is one which they manage to make pay themselves more than one hundred per cent., regardless of the fact that the 'virtue goes out of the sinless genius of Masonry every time they but touch the hem of her garments.' I have seen these mere politicians on the eve of a State election obtrude themselves upon the Craft in Grand Lodge assembled, and ask for official Masonic preferment, with the sole aim of making this a stepping-stone to civil promotion. I have, in one instance, seen such a politician who had gained office by the judicious use of a *lie* well sworn to, and who was a candidate for re-election, in the confident expectation that success would finally obscure his 'multitude of sins;' I have seen such an individual, at such a pause in his career, visit a Grand Masonic body, and, with characteristic effrontery, ask members to give *him* the highest office within their gift. I have never yet—thanks to the stalwart middle men of the Order—seen these politicians carry their points; but then the fact that such an attempt was made is humiliating in the extreme. No, Corson, let us stand by the old Masonic flag, on which is inscribed in illuminated letters the noble motto, FRATERNITY and EQUALITY. Let us determinedly oppose the modern innovation that there is such a thing as *aristocracy* in Masonry. Let us insist that brains, merit, fitness, and enthusiasm, instead of mere meretricious '*worldly* wealth or honors,' shall be the test of Masonic recognition, and it will be well with us when the storm comes upon us. The former are the men who will help us *then*. The latter are they who, like leeches, will fall off and leave us; and 'nothing in their *Masonic* life will so become them as their *leaving* of it.'"

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-Second Annual Convocation was held at Albany, commencing February 2, 1869.

The Grand Chapter of the "Empire State" leads all others in the statistics of the Royal Arch Craft. In this State are one hundred and forty Chapters, with a total membership of 12,651, which would make quite an army corps. There are also sixteen Chapters under dispensation with a membership swelling the grand total to 13,127. There were 2,149 exaltations the past year, which shows how rapidly Capitular Masonry is spreading over the State, where the wickedness and folly of the Morgan mania had almost extinguished it a few years ago.

The address of Grand High Priest Stone is a model for future generations to follow. It is full of decisions on Masonic law and usages, and gives much other interesting matter. The following important announcement will be read with interest:

"At our last Annual Convocation a resolution was referred to a committee consisting of the Grand Council, inquiring what legislation, if any, was necessary to merge the degrees of Royal, Select, and Super-Excellent Masters, with the work of this Grand Chapter. As *ex-officio* chairman of that committee, I have to report that in our opinion the initial step in such legislation should be taken by the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York, who are now, and have long been, the acknowledged custodians of the work of said degrees, and have thus far manifested no desire to be relieved from their responsibilities. Should they at any future time offer to surrender their trust, in our opinion, it would be necessary before said degrees could be merged with our work, to amend the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, which now declares that the Mark, Past, Most Excellent and Royal Arch are the only degrees recognized by it, to be conferred in Chapters under its jurisdiction. In view of these improbable contingencies, the subject loses its interest, and the committee ask to be relieved from its further consideration."

It is gratifying to take up and read an address like Grand High Priest Stone's occasionally, full of new decisions and conveying Masonic news.

Too many Grand High Priests plod along in the beaten path of predecessors with a dog-trot pace until their annual addresses are looked upon as *inflections* and *afflictions* upon the Craft. They are full of cant and common-place platitudes that have been heard a thousand times. They are like boarding-house hash—recognized as having been served before.

Grand High Priest Stone will be remembered by our Washington Companions as our fearless and just defender, on the inquisition committee before the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis. His memory is green and fragrant to us here, and we shall always remember his kind and courteous conduct. His heart is not a *stone* if he does bear that name; and if he will visit us here, we will guarantee that it shall melt rapidly. We will ascertain then whether there are

"Books in the running brooks,
Sermons in *stones*,
And good in everything."

It astonishes the whole Masonic world to find that New York last year voted to take the degree of High Priesthood, and *confer it in the Grand Chapter* immediately after opening. So much of this was rescinded this year as to appoint a time during the Annual Convocation for conferring the degree. We hope the whole thing will be rescinded next year, and resolutions were offered to that effect, and referred to the jurisprudence committee. New York tried to swallow the Council degrees, but they stuck in the esophagus, producing inflammation in the larynx and epiglottis. Like an alligator on a log, its mouth is open for anything laying about loose, and High Priesthood has suffered the pangs of deglutition. An emetic is sure to produce a desirable result next year. So mote it be.

Companion Joseph White presented the report on foreign correspondence, which is comprehensive, but non-committal on all important subjects, including the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which New York could not recognize last year on account of the "high respect entertained for our M.: E.: G.: G.: High Priest Lewis." They forget to tell us this year how much respect they have for his opinions in our case at St. Louis. Where is that committee?

OHIO.

We gladly hail the appearance of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, which was the first friend we had to recognize us, and extend sympathy and support in dark days, when we needed such fraternal courtesy.

Whenever we extend our hand to Ohio, our hand will always contain our heart. This is emblematical of our feelings toward our Buckeye Companions—noble fellows, every one of them.

The Fifty-Second Annual Convocation was held at Dayton, October 16, 1868. There are one hundred and thirteen Chapters in the State, but the Grand Secretary does not tell us how many members these Chapters have in total.

Grand High Priest Rex made a sensible and truly business-like address, without a word of Masonic cant or "spread-eagle oratory" in it. We regret that so faithful an officer could not be Grand High Priest as long as he lives. He recommended in his address that Ohio continue to favor the policy of giving the General Grand Chapter a little power. This was referred to a special committee, who reported the following, which was adopted:

"The special committee to which was referred so much of the address of the M.: E.: G.: High Priest as refers to the proposed amendment of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, have had the same under consideration, and report:

"That in the opinion of your committee said proposed amendment is not required to correct any evils which experience has shown to exist in the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter as it now is; that the exercise of such powers was not contemplated and formed no part of the object to be attained by the creation of the General Grand Chapter; that in the exercise of the powers proposed to be conferred dissatisfaction and discord are likely to be introduced into the Masonic family, thus defeating the object of the proposed amendment; that said powers would prove difficult, if not incapable of enforcement; and that great delays and large expense would be incurred in the enforcement of a cen-

tral discipline without a corresponding benefit. They therefore adhere to the opinions heretofore expressed by this Grand Chapter, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the representatives of this Grand Chapter in the next Triennial onvocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States be, and they hereby are, instructed to vote against the adoption of such proposed amendment."

At the last Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, at St. Louis, Ohio voted in favor of inserting teeth in the General Grand Chapter to enable it to masticate State Grand Chapters. Now she has changed front; and presents her delegation with orders to prevent the General Grand Chapter from biting anybody. Ohio is *co'rect*. She is always on the right side. And yet she commits one little error. She calls a Convocation of a Chapter a *communication*, and carries Blue Lodge Masonry into the Chapter. Only one other Grand Chapter permits this innovation. We don't care whether General Grand Secretary Caldwell, or any other Mason, permits this error, he is wrong. In all ages past, Lodges have held *communications*, Chapters have held *convocations*, and Commanderies held *conclaves*. Why depart from these ancient landmarks?

Eminent Companion Howard Matthews presents the report on foreign correspondence, which is courteous, discriminating, and brimful of good things. He copies Companion Drummond's lame apology for General Grand High Priest Lewis, and lays him on his back in the following style:

"Speaking of the address of Companion Rex, he says: 'The address of the Grand High Priest is devoted to local matters, except so far as it relates to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. In his discussion of that matter, he, as it clearly seems to us, has fallen into one error. He assumes that the General Grand High Priest has undertaken to "annul" the new Grand Chapter, and in so doing has transcended his powers. But the General Grand High Priest has not undertaken to do any such thing. He had judicially passed upon the question whether the Grand Chapter has been legally formed. He has not attempted to "annul" an existing Grand Chapter; he has simply declared that it has no legal existence. This question was for him to decide, and we hold that Ohio is bound by his decision till reversed.'

"Companion Drummond, who is proverbially correct in his statements, has also 'fallen into an error.' Companion Rex did not state that the General Grand High Priest had undertaken to 'annul' the *Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia*, but that he had annulled their proceedings in a certain instance, and in another place he claimed that the General Grand Chapter has no power or authority to control or *annul* the action of either of said Grand Chapters, meaning the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and of Maryland. We will say further, that the General Grand High Priest might as well have attempted to 'control or annul' the action of the Grand Chapter of Maine or Ohio as of the District of Columbia. We think it can be shown beyond dispute that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was as legally constituted as any other Grand Chapter; and, this being admitted, we will have no trouble in showing that the General Grand High Priest has violated the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, (see sec. 2 of art. 1,) and by this act has given a fatal blow to aggre-

gated Royal Arch Masonry in the United States. If such things are to be permitted in the future, it would be far better for the institution that the General Grand Chapter were *annulled* at the earliest possible moment."

OREGON.

The Eighth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Oregon assembled at Portland, June 22, 1868. Each of the five Chapters in the State were represented. Grand High Priest Brown, in his address, states that a charter was granted at the last Annual Convocation to Idaho Chapter at Boise City, in the Territory of Idaho. This being beyond the limits of Oregon, the Grand High Priest wrote to General Grand High Priest Lewis *after* he had instituted it, and found out that the General Grand Chapter claimed the Territory of Idaho, where no Chapter existed, and so he asked that the matter might be *healed*. He wrote to General Grand High Priest Lewis, September 12, 1867, but when he delivered this address, June 22, 1868, he had received no reply, which shows the neglectful manner in which General Grand High Priest Lewis did his business while in office.

Grand High Priest Brown presented our case to his Grand Chapter, before action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, as follows:

"Serious and aggravated troubles have arisen between some of the officers of the General Grand Chapter, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and Potomac Chapter, No. 8, involving grave questions—one that requires older and more experienced heads to pass upon than my own. From the little time that I have had to investigate the matter, I am led to the opinion that our General Grand High Priest has exceeded his prerogatives; and as you will be called upon to act in this matter, I herewith transmit all the correspondence and other matter relating thereto, and ask that it be referred and a report be made before we close this Convocation. It is only sufficient for us to know that in the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, Companion A. G. Mackey, Past General Grand High Priest, acted as installing officer, and I cannot believe that a man with his Masonic ability could commit so grave an error as is charged. I presume the whole matter will be presented in the report of the committee on foreign correspondence, to which you can refer."

The committee on the Grand High Priest's address reported the following, which was adopted, and our Grand Chapter recognized before action of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis:

"Regarding that part of the address mentioning the unfortunate difference existing between the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and Potomac Chapter, No. 8, your committee are of the opinion that the position taken by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is correct, and we recommend that this Grand Chapter endorse their action in this matter."

We tender our thanks to our distant Companions on the Columbia and the Willamette, for their kind and fraternal courtesies, and adherence to right and justice. We shall always be pleased to see them in the national capital, where zealous Masons have warm hearts and open hands.

Companion J. H. Wythe presented the report on foreign correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-one Grand Chapters.

The General Grand Chapter of the United States has no subordinate Chapter in Washington Territory; yet a Companion here recently hailed from a Chapter he said existed at Olympia, in that Territory. Will our Oregon Companions tell us whether there is a Chapter or not in Washington Territory?

PENNSYLVANIA.

We acknowledged the receipt last year of the Quarterly Convocations of this Grand Chapter, with three years' proceedings bound in one volume, and have received nothing from the "Keystone State" since. We presume that they only publish their proceedings once in three years, and then give Companions outside their jurisdiction very little light about their mysterious doings. Royal Arch Masonry differs in Pennsylvania from that in every other State, and she persistently refuses to adopt any of the ritual used in other States, and considers her peculiar form correct, and all others wrong. The Tycoon of Japan would make an excellent representative of Pennsylvania Capitular Masonry.

Companion Drummond, of Maine, has been acting as a spy, to ferret out and fish up from the vaults what Pennsylvania has always refused to give us, and he presents his researches in the following admirable report:

"Sometime before 1758 a Chapter was established in Philadelphia (working only the Royal Arch degree) under the warrant of Lodge No. 3, working by authority from 'the Grand Lodge of all England,' commonly known as the 'Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons.' In 1786 this, with other Lodges, formed the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Other Chapters had been established in the same manner. Of all these the new Grand Lodge assumed the control. But in 1795, for good reasons, a Grand Royal Arch Chapter was opened under the immediate sanction of the Grand Lodge, composed of 'all past and existing officers of the Grand Lodge having duly obtained the degree of Royal Arch, and all past and existing officers of Chapters' duly authorized by the Grand Lodge.

"The Grand Master, if a Royal Arch Mason, was *ex officio* High Priest, the Grand Chapter having power to elect officers with that exception, to make its by-laws, to decide complaints and appeals, but not to confer the Royal Arch degree. In 1798 further rules, &c., were adopted; no Chapter could be held save under a warrant 'Granted by the Grand Lodge according to the old institutions, and by the consent of such Lodges, signified to the Grand Chapter,' that no Chapter could be held without the presence of six regular Royal Arch Masons; that no brother could take the degree 'unless he have taken the three first degrees, and have filled the office of W. Master, or passed the chair by dispensation.'

"Soon after Mark Lodges were established in connection with Masters' Lodges.

"The control of the Grand Lodge being inefficient, efforts, for a time fruitless, were made to separate the Grand Chapter from it. In 1824 they were successful, and the Grand Chapter was made independent of the Grand Lodge, and a constitution, &c., adopted.

"The Grand Chapter was 'constituted of all the members of the Grand Lodge for the time being, who are Royal Arch Masons, and have received the honorary degree of Mark Master, and been accepted and received Most Excellent Masters,

and who have passed the chair of a Lodge by election, and are contributing members of some subordinate Chapter, of all High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being of all subordinate Chapters under this jurisdiction, who are qualified as aforesaid, and of all Past High Priests of subordinate Chapters under this jurisdiction who are qualified as aforesaid, continuing members of such subordinate Chapters.'

["It is stated in an official document, published in 1863, that the clause making the officers of Chapters members of the Grand Chapter was not in the Constitution of 1824, but it was introduced in 1855; but we have taken the foregoing from the 'Ahiman Rezon,' published in 1825 by the Grand Secretary, and the presumption is that it is correct.]

"Charters were issued by it to all the Chapters, and to the Mark Lodges, three of which still exist, but no Mark Lodges, separate from Chapters, have since been established.

"In 1863 the Constitution, &c., were revised, but very many of the peculiar features of that of 1824 were retained. We shall now enumerate some of these.

"The Grand Chapter, by the Constitution of 1863, is composed of such members of the Grand Lodge as are Royal Arch Masons and *actual* Past Masters, and are contributing members of a subordinate Chapter, and all Past Grand High Priests. It has power to issue warrants for Chapters and Lodges of Most Excellent or Mark Masters; but a warrant for a Chapter includes authority to hold those Lodges. The Grand Chapter has no jurisdiction over the degree of Past Master, and the Chapters do not confer it, as we understand the matter. In 1824 it was provided no brother should be exalted 'without his having previously become a Past Master, Mark Master, and Most Excellent Master.' Under the present Constitution an applicant for the Mark degree must be a Master Mason. An applicant for the Most Excellent Master's degree must be a Mark Master, and must have 'duly passed the chair in some regular Lodge.' The Constitution of the Grand Lodge provides that 'no brother, unless duly elected Master of a Lodge, can pass the chair without a dispensation, legally issued.' Accordingly, the Grand Master, for a fee of \$10, which goes to the Grand Lodge, issues 'dispensations to pass the chair' to the number of hundreds every year. The chair 'is passed' by the applicant in his Lodge. Who are present, or whether he pays an additional sum to the Lodge, we cannot tell. We presume, however, only Past Masters are present. We presume, also, that such dispensations are issued only to Mark Masters, and upon their petition as such, but of this we have no certain knowledge.

"Chapters are represented only by a proxy to a member of the Grand Chapter, (but no member can be a proxy for more than one Chapter at the same time,) except as their own members happen to be members of the Grand Chapter; but that cannot be opened unless three Chapters are represented by members of the Grand Chapter 'severally belonging to such Chapters.'"

RHODE ISLAND.

We have received the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for 1866, 1867, and 1868, bound in one volume, and beautifully printed on faultless paper. No report for 1869 has been received, so we suppose it is the custom in Rhode Island.

to print three years proceedings in one volume. There are five Chapters in the State, and four under dispensation. No report is given on foreign correspondence. The Grand High Priest refers kindly to our Grand Chapter in his address, and says:

"The organization of a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia has led to much controversy among the Craft in consequence of the interference of the officers of the so-called General Grand Chapter of the United States, in attempting to sustain a subordinate Chapter of the District in its rebellion against the new Grand Chapter."

Grand High Priest Doyle gives the following choice bit of G. G. H. P. Lewis' ethics in Masonry, and his experience with him:

"I had the pleasure in December last, while on a visit to a neighboring city, of meeting that distinguished Companion, M. E. John L. Lewis. It will be remembered that he was elected by the Convention of Royal Arch Masons, which met in Columbus in September, 1865, as General Grand High Priest of the United States. At the time I saw him he expressed the deep regret he felt in common with the leading Royal Arch Masons of the country at the action of our Grand Chapter upon the question of a revival of the General Grand Chapter, and desired to know if a communication from him upon the subject would be fraternally received by this Grand Chapter. I assured him that, however much the members of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island might differ from him and others on the subject referred to, anything from his pen upon that or any other Masonic matter would be most gladly received, and fraternally considered by the Royal Arch Masons of Rhode Island. He told me that such a communication should be forwarded; but although I informed him then of the date of this Convocation, and since that time have written to him, and forwarded to his address, at different times, documents that he expressed a wish to receive, I have, up to this time, failed to receive a word of acknowledgment from him, or the communication which he wished to make to you.

"I regret that he has allowed the matter to go by, as I should have been glad to have laid before you an argument from so able a source upon the necessity of a General Grand Chapter of the United States. During the years that have passed since the dissolution of the previous body, nothing has occurred in this jurisdiction to warrant the belief that such an organization would be of the slightest use, and it would have been interesting, therefore, to know what could have been said in its favor by one so well qualified to plead for it."

SOUTH CAROLINA.

We have received copies of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for the Annual Convocation held at Greenville February 11 and 12, 1868; also for the Annual Convocation held at Charleston February 9 and 10, 1869.

By the former report, it seems that South Carolina maintains about the same status of prosperity as in years past, yet all intelligent Masons look back to the time when Dr. Albert G. Mackey was more active in Masonry, as the time when South Carolina had more influence abroad than she has now.

The gall and bitterness that run through the reports of late years make all Masons abroad yearn for better things in that State.

Grand High Priest Robert S. Bruns seems to stand at the head of this thunderbolt faction, that is spoiling for a fight. We got a very kind letter from Grand Secretary Thayer, with neither gunpowder nor nitro-glycerine in it.

The address of Grand High Priest Bruns, made in 1868, is a fearful picture, distorted by prejudice, passion, and ignorance. He devotes five pages of his address to the District of Columbia, and it is hard to see how many more errors, misrepresentations, or downright falsehoods could be crowded into five pages. But the whole account as written there was familiar to us. It was originally written by an expelled Mason in the District of Columbia, and forwarded to South Carolina, and now turns up a part of the address of Grand High Priest Bruns. The special pleading would be unworthy of a fourth-rate lawyer, before a justice of the peace, in a ten-cent case between two colored brethren.

As the worst part of the address came from an expelled Mason here, whose Masonic crimes are familiar in Washington, it exonerates Companion Bruns from a heavy load of guilt, for which we will make suitable reparation.

The plagiarism, however, reminds us of the lines by McCauley to his friend:

"Your comedy I've read, my friend,
I like the part you stole the best;
If you the matter still would mend,
Be bold, my man, and steal the rest."

In September, 1867, Grand High Priest Bruns issued an edict against the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which had about the same effect that the Pope's bull did against the comet. He was the only Grand High Priest in the United States that done such a foolish thing. He could not wait for his Grand Chapter to meet, so fired his gun prematurely. This edict he signed "R. S. Bruns, 32°." Now what the thirty-second degree of the Scotch Rite has to do with Capitular Masonry perhaps Companion Bruns can tell us. It would not be half so ridiculous for him to sign himself "S. M.," (Sons of Malta,) or "K. P.," (Knights of Pythias,) and pretend that it added honor to his name as a Royal Arch Mason.

Companion Bruns, in his address, and Companion Moses, for a special committee on this subject, both state that their Grand Chapter must obey the edict of G. G. H. P. Lewis, and refuse to recognize our Grand Chapter. This appears in their proceedings in February, 1868. In September, 1868, the General Grand Chapter recognized this Grand Chapter at St. Louis, and G. G. H. P. Lewis recommended all State Grand Chapters to do the same thing. Now mark the result. The Grand Chapter of South Carolina held its Annual Convocation again the following February, (1869,) and Grand High Priest Bruns, who was so forward to refuse to recognize us, found his scheme defeated at St. Louis, and yet he did not have the manliness to recommend our recognition, or to extend us the usual salutations. He delivered a long address, but never said a word about the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. He forgot all about it. He did not fill five pages with "opinions" on this occasion. He still holds the same "opinions," for

"He that's convinced against his will,
Is of the same opinion still."

One thing he did not forget, and that was to sign himself "R. S. Bruns, 32°." He reviewed the action of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, and stated

in his address everything that transpired there, except the two days' discussion about our Grand Chapter.

He tells the wondering Companions all about his being elected Deputy General Grand High Priest; and says, "I was made the recipient of a great distinction." We hope he will live his three-years' term out, and enjoy good health. He says:

"It is well to have a giant's power,
But it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant;"

and intimates that he has it in him, but seldom lets it out.

Our Grand Chapter is the youngest entered apprentice in the northeast corner of the General Grand Tabernacle, and so we reverently bow to our Deputy General Grand High Priest, whenever his name is mentioned.

TENNESSEE.

The Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter assembled in Nashville, September 30, 1868. Grand High Priest Thomas presented a fine address, congratulating the Craft in the District of Columbia on the settlement of all their difficulties by the General Grand Chapter of the United States. A Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held to attend the funeral of E. Companion Charles A. Fuller, Grand Secretary of Tennessee. The death of Companion Fuller was truly a national loss to Masonry, for he was one of the best Masonic writers in the whole country.

Companion George S. Blackie presented the report on foreign correspondence. The report of Dr. Blackie is a well-written document and reflects credit on him, upon whom the mantle of the lamented Companion Fuller has fallen. He devotes seven pages to the District of Columbia, and gives a full, clear, and candid statement of our organization and subsequent history.

TEXAS.

The Twentieth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Texas was held at Houston, June 14, 1869, thirty-one of her ninety-three Chapters being represented.

The Chapters in the "Lone Star State" seem to be recovering from the apathy and poverty that existed among them at the close of the war. They have three Grand Visitors and Lecturers in that State of magnificent distances, and pay them \$1,000 per annum, although their Chapters are poor. The reports of the Grand Visitors and Lecturers are very interesting. The condition of each Chapter is given, and the Grand Chapter, in this way, obtains a comprehensive idea of the wants of its subordinates.

To give an idea of what our Texas Companions have to contend with, a visit to the following Chapter is appended:

"DECATUR, No. 68.—I have been in the vicinity where this Chapter is situated several times during the past Masonic year. They have entirely ceased to work. I am apprehensive that there is not interest enough among the Companions to warrant the hope that they will be able to resume labor for some time to come.

The country has been invaded hitherto, until of late, by hostile Indians almost every light moon since the war. Many of the Companions are entirely broken up. During the past year the Indians have driven off not less than 1,500 horses from the country, killed over 200, and murdered ten of the inhabitants. Three-fourths of the inhabitants had abandoned the county at the time of my last visit. But since the savages were so severely chastised by the United States forces during the past winter, they have ceased their depredations, and the citizens, I learn, are returning to their homes. A brighter day may yet dawn on the Companions of that jurisdiction. I think, however, for the present, the Charter ought to be returned."

The following resolution, passed in 1861, is still adhered to, and Texas stands firm in her decision:

"*Resolved*, That all connection between the Grand Chapter and the General Grand Chapter of the United States is dissolved, and forever annihilated."

In keeping strictly within the landmarks and usages of the Craft, Texas furnishes an example to many older and more experienced Grand Chapters. The following resolution illustrates the point:

"*Resolved*, That in order to secure uniformity in another important particular, this Grand Chapter adopts, and only recognizes as the date proper to be used in all our documents as the year of our Order, Anno Inventionis 2391; or, in other words, add 534 years to the vulgar era."

No official paper or document of any Grand Chapter or subordinate Chapter should ever bear any other than the *Royal Arch date*, and if any other is used, it should be returned for correction to the Secretary or other officer violating this necessary and truly important landmark of the Royal Craft.

The proceedings show 232 exaltations during the past year, with a total membership of 3,218. These are scattered over an immense area of territory. By a regulation of the Grand Chapter, no Chapter can be chartered within twenty-five miles of its neighbor already in existence.

At the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, our Texas Companions travel hundreds of miles to attend, and thus show their love for Royal Arch Masonry. Their zeal is commendable, and, in such faithful repositories, we can all rest assured that the Royal Craft will ever be honored on our southwestern border.

The following extract will make Companions in this latitude blush for their want of similar heroism and self-sacrifice in attending Annual Convocations:

"Some of our Companions annually come by way of Red river, the Mississippi, and the Gulf of Mexico, a distance of fifteen hundred miles, to attend the Convocation of this Grand body; others have to occupy from ten to fourteen days in reaching Houston, devote a week to the duties of the Convocation, start for home by rail, which they soon leave for the saddle, and then another ten days are necessarily occupied in reaching home; in other words, a month is devoted to the duty of representing the interest of Royal Arch Masonry. Can any other State show Companions as zealous and self-sacrificing?"

Our fraters in Texas are uncertain what to do with Companions when they become insane. The unfortunate mental condition of our Companions in Maryland has become so alarming that we had intended, as medical attendant, to

recommend them to emigrate to Texas, where the pure air and invigorating climate would restore them to Masonic health. But, after reading the following extract from the address of the Grand High Priest, we have concluded to withdraw the recommendation :

"I deem it proper to call your attention to a letter from the Secretary of Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 57, presenting a novel case, an exceptional one, for which I am not aware that any uniform rule of action has been heretofore adopted in our jurisdiction—that of a Companion who has become insane, and in arrears for dues, which had accrued during that condition, submitting the question, should the unfortunate Companion be suspended in conformity with the strict letter of the by-laws, or what course should be pursued? Suspension for non-payment of dues is a punishment for the neglect of a known obligation. No judgment or sentence in a court of law, or in the forum of conscience, could be binding against a lunatic. He could be guilty of no wrong after the light of reason had been withdrawn, and does it not follow that the status of such should not be changed during such condition? He may be a husband and father. Again, reason may be restored, and as his mind emerges from this abyss of darkness and death, and the sweet and sacred memories of the past return, may he not long to greet his former Companions? Should any action be taken that would bar the exercise of charity against him, or his kindred?"

This is similar to the case of Maryland. The whole Masonic world is in doubt what to do with them. The great question is, shall they be suspended; and, if so, how much?

The chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence bears the eminent name in the Masonic world, of Philip C. Tucker. The brightest star in the Masonic constellation that ever beamed among the Green Mountains bore this name. The excellent report submitted shows that this second Philip C. Tucker, of Galveston, does honor to that revered name. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Chapters. He gives a fair and candid view of our Grand Chapter, and quotes briefly of its proceedings. He copies what the Grand High Priest of Arkansas said about attending the Convocation of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis; then adds a few words that are sharper than the crack of a Texan rifle. Here, is what G. : H. : P. : Barber, of Arkansas, says, with Companion Tucker's remarks :

"As the presiding officer of this Grand Chapter, I attended, with the Companions holding the proxies of the other Grand officers, the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, held in St. Louis in September last. Of the hospitality of the Companions of St. Louis, and the courtesy of the city council, of the pleasantness and agreeability of the visit, much might be said; but of the work done I have little to report—of Masonic instruction received, nothing."

"With what countenance a supporter of the august body referred to, upon the ground of usefulness, can, with such evidence upon the record, given by one of the best Royal Arch Masons in America, and one of the most intelligent of its old members, attempt to convince intelligent Masons that to expend weeks of time and thousands of dollars every three years by Royal Arch Masons in attendance upon the important meetings of the General Grand Chapter, with no other result than that the representatives can have a good time, can be of benefit to

the Royal Craft, we cannot imagine. We (not being descended from Plymouth stock) do not object to having what an old New England acquaintance of our boyhood was in the habit of calling 'a proper good time,' but we object to it under the guise of the meeting of any legislative Masonic governing body. If the Companions require a grand frolic every three years, say so, and count us in, as we fully accede to the old saw of 'too much work and no play makes Jack a dull boy;' but for decency sake do not go in under false colors. It hurts the Order in general, and brings the body doing it into well-merited contempt."

VERMONT.

The Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held at Brandon in October, 1868; twenty-one of her twenty-three Chapters being present, which shows an active interest when so well represented.

Grand High Priest Miles delivered a fine address, mostly occupied with local matters. He urged, in his address, that Vermont become again a constituent of the General Grand Chapter; but the committee on the High Priest's address did not recommend it, and there appears to have been no action taken on the subject. Prosperity is everywhere apparent in R. A. Masonry in the Green Mountain State.

Rev. Companion Joshua Britton, chairman, offered the report on foreign correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of our Grand Chapter, and giving a fair statement of the case. He also alludes again to the subject, under "Maryland AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA," which latter name we hope our Vermont fraters will drop, on Maryland's title.

VIRGINIA.

The Grand Chapter assembled in Annual Convocation at Richmond, December 17, 1868, with a representation from twenty-six of her fifty-eight Chapters. Charters were granted to three new Chapters. The Grand High Priest, in his address, says there are fifteen Chapters in the jurisdiction either extinct, or failed to make returns to the Grand Chapter. But, he says, it is certain, and within his personal knowledge, that many of these are in good working order, but fail to make returns, through indifference and neglect on the part of the officers. The Grand Secretary was subsequently ordered to open a correspondence with these delinquents and demand returns this year.

Our Virginia Companions across the Potomac are rapidly recovering from the effects of the war, and we congratulate them heartily on this fact, and feel a fraternal interest in their success and prosperity, in which we shall always truly rejoice.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows \$674 received, which is less from *fifty-eight Chapters*, than the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia will receive this year from her *six subordinates*. He also reports \$469 still due.

The committee on foreign correspondence acknowledge the receipt of the proceedings from thirty-one Grand Chapters, ours among the number. The entire report is then confined to the following sentence:

"After a careful perusal of all these documents, we find nothing requiring especial notice. We are much gratified at witnessing the harmony and good

order prevailing throughout, and would ask a continuance of fraternal correspondence."

And so they find "nothing requiring especial notice" in the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters. We think they had better be sent "a second or even a third time, to delve among the ruins for further discoveries." Virginia has too much talent lying dormant to allow such a report to pass the overseer's square. It carries us back to the days of stage coaches and tallow candles.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Desiring to know the condition of Capitular Masonry in our neighboring State, we addressed a letter to Companion T. H. Logan, of Wheeling, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, and a prominent Mason in the new commonwealth. Under date of October 19, 1869, Dr Logan writes:

"We have no Grand Chapter in West Virginia. There are but two Chapters in the State—one in this city, quite prosperous, and one in Parkersburg. There is a Chapter under dispensation at Point Pleasant. These are all subordinates to the Grand Chapter of Virginia."

We sincerely trust that West Virginia will establish a Grand Chapter at once, now that she has three subordinates. There should be Chapters established immediately at Grafton, Morgantown, Clarksburg, and Charleston. These places are all large enough to support Chapters.

The Chapters now existing in the State seem to have derived or obtained their Charters from Old Virginia. In the proceedings for Virginia for 1868 they put down "Wheeling Union Chapter, No. 19, no return for two years," but do not carry out any chartered Chapters as existing at Parkersburg or Point Pleasant. But "Lebanon Chapter, No. 9," at Martinsburg, West Virginia, is returned; and "Clinton Chapter, No. 40," at Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, West Virginia, with eighty-seven members is returned, showing two additional Chapters in the State in flourishing condition not reported by Dr. Logan. "Nelson Chapter, No. 35," at Morgantown, West Virginia, is put down as extinct; also "Adoniram Chapter, No. 23," at Clarksburg. We find "Jerusalem Chapter, No. 5," at Charlestown, Jefferson county, recorded with no returns; but "Bethesda, No. 16," at Middleway, Jefferson county, in a flourishing and healthy condition, although it reports only thirty-seven members to the Grand Chapter of Virginia.

It will be seen that the Grand Chapter of Virginia reports four subordinates in good condition, making returns to the Grand Chapter, and two extinct, all in the new State of West Virginia. In addition to this, Dr. Logan reports three others, making in all seven Chapters in West Virginia in good working condition. The Chapters reported as extinct are in places desolated by the late war, and ought to be resuscitated now.

This, we believe, is all the information that we possess about our neighboring jurisdiction, and is more than we have ever seen compiled in the reports of any other Grand Chapter.

It is well known that Old Virginia never recognized the General Grand Chapter of the United States, or had anything to do with it whatever.

When West Virginia was created a State in June, 1863, Old Virginia still continued to hold the charters of Chapters in the new State, and at the close of the

war these Chapters once more paid annual dues to their *alma mater*, and considered themselves still under the jurisdiction of Virginia, and, as will be seen by Dr. Logan's letter, still hold allegiance to that jurisdiction. From the close of the war in 1865 to the present year, this relation has continued, and no Grand Chapter formed.

If the General Grand Chapter of the United States claims all territory unoccupied by a Grand Chapter as belonging by right to that General Grand body, then West Virginia, when she became a State, was at once under the jurisdiction of that General Grand body. G. G. H. P. Lewis was very decided on this point in 1867, in regard to the District of Columbia. Does the same law apply to West Virginia? Of course it does. The question then arises, why has not the same rule been applied to West Virginia? G. G. H. P. Lewis was on the war-path after unoccupied territory, but forgot all about one of the States where no Grand Chapter ever existed. Shall we not truly say, "Oh consistency, thou art a jewel!"

It may be said that the Chapters now existing in West Virginia did not receive their charters from the General Grand Chapter, but from Virginia, which never recognized that General Grand body. Precisely a parallel case to Delaware, where the original charters were all obtained from Pennsylvania, a State that never recognized the General Grand Chapter. And yet, General Grand High Priest Lewis pounced down upon little Delaware like a hawk on a chicken, and declared *that* unoccupied territory, while the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Delaware declared that a Grand Chapter still existed there, and that each subordinate Chapter originally obtained its charter from Pennsylvania! All the trouble made in Delaware and the District of Columbia has been caused by the General Grand High Priest of the United States exercising powers that he *did not possess*, and that the General Grand Chapter *does not pretend to possess*. Having passed through the fiery ordeal, we hope and pray that our Companions in West Virginia may be spared from similar volcanic eruptions of assumed despotic power.

WISCONSIN.

Annual Convocation in Milwaukee, February 3, 1869, with a large representation of subordinate Chapters. Excellent reports show how prosperous the Craft are all over Wisconsin. The proceedings are full of evidences that sound Masons preside over the quarries in Wisconsin. Few States have more intelligent or worthy Masons than this young and growing State. In this she is peculiarly fortunate. Grand High Priest Carpenter delivered an address that we wish every Mason in the land could read. It is full of sense and wisdom. His decisions on jurisprudence we would like to copy if space allowed.

He gives us the following gratifying information:

"*The Rite of Memphis*.—This pest, which has infested some localities in this jurisdiction, drawing after it some well-meaning Companions, whose curiosity outweighed their discretion, and others whose ambition led them to wish to distinguish themselves as the leaders of a new system; and others still, whose speculative instincts saw another chance to make some money out of the brethren, in accordance with *their ideas* of the meaning of the term '*fraternal relations*,'

which is, *to make all they can out of such relations*. This charlatanism, I repeat, is nearly extinct in our borders. If any of it still remains, and the adherents thereto cause any trouble, each Chapter has the weapon wherewith to end it, or sever the connection of such Companions with this Order; and it is their duty to do so. I wish I could with confidence congratulate the Craft on the fact of this being the last attempt of the mountebanks, in or out of the Order, to palm off their wares upon our members."

In reviewing the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter he gives the following diagnosis of our affairs and the status of Potomac Chapter:

"The business of the General Grand Chapter was very speedily transacted, little of an important character was to be done. The entanglement of affairs in respect to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which had caused much difficulty, was the chief subject of legislation. The whole matter was fairly and amicably adjusted, and the Grand Chapter of the said District was recognized as a legal Grand body, its representatives admitted to the General Grand Chapter, and the 'bar sinister,' which had defaced its escutcheon, and enveloped its members, and the Chapters of which it is composed, in a cloud, was removed. Potomac Chapter, at Georgetown, in said District, was continued under the authority and jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, but '*without territorial jurisdiction* over candidates for the Capitular degrees; a somewhat anomalous state of existence for a Chapter to be placed in; and the fact that it still holds aloof from the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and prefers to continue under these disadvantageous circumstances, rather than transfer its allegiance to the Grand Chapter of the territory in which it is situated, illustrates very forcibly the tenacity with which everything human will cling to the *present life*."

Companion Wm. H. Norris, jr., presented an able report on foreign correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-three Grand Chapters, ours included.

He copies a portion of our report on jurisprudence, offered by Companion Chipman, on physical qualifications, and seems to agree with the conclusions there.

He alludes to our report on foreign correspondence as follows:

"It is chiefly an exhibit of the views of other jurisdictions regarding their own, closing the passage upon Maryland with a magnanimous appeal for *concord*, which should meet with prompt *accord*. We need not mention that Companion B. B. French is the chairman."

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

Our Grand Secretary informs your committee that he has regularly mailed our proceedings to this Grand Chapter, but can get no word in reply and none of their proceedings.

L. Mackersey, 3 North St. David street, Edinburgh, was Grand Secretary last year. There are ninety-five subordinates under this Grand Chapter, and twenty-one "Mark Master Lodges." It has subordinate Chapters established all over the face of the earth where no Grand Chapter exists, but does not intrude on occupied territory, like the Grand Orient of France. We hope to receive the

proceedings from Scotland at once, and establish fraternal intercourse with our learned Companions in Auld Scotia. We have the pleasure of welcoming here, in the court city of the American Republic, many Scottish Companions, whose knowledge and Masonic acquirements endear them to us in fraternal ties.

GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

We acknowledge the receipt of the bulletin of the Grand Orient of France for May and July, 1869. These proceedings contain two hundred and forty closely-printed pages, in the French language, and indicate a degree of prosperity in Masonry in the empire and throughout the French possessions hitherto unknown.

The Catholic influence in France is bitterly opposed to Masonry, from the royal family at the Tuilleries to the humblest Parisian rag-picker or rat-catcher. The surveillance of the police and the royal spies came near suspending all meetings a few years ago, and persecuted leading Masons in Paris equal to the days of anti-Masonry in America. But in France, as elsewhere, Masonry flourishes best when persecuted.

There are three hundred and twenty-four Lodges and Chapters in France and throughout the French possessions. France has several Lodges under charter at Vienna and Constantinople; quite a number in the Holy Land, Algiers, Egypt, and North and South America. The sun never sets on the territory under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France. The Grand Orient charters Lodges and Chapters in any part of the earth, where Grand Lodges or Chapters exist already, with the same *sang froid* that they would were none existing there. This the Grand Orient does *sans peur et sans reproche*. We believe the Grand Orient of France has chartered Lodges and Chapters in New Orleans, against the protest of the Grand Lodge and Chapter of Louisiana, into which expelled Masons have been received, and honored in the same way that expelled Masons in the District of Columbia seek a shelter in Potomac Chapter at Georgetown.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES.

Since the last Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter we have received officially the proceedings of the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, held at St. Louis in September, 1868.

The custom in the different Grand Chapters throws the review of these proceedings on the committee on foreign correspondence, but in this jurisdiction our venerable and learned Grand High Priest has reviewed the action of the General Grand Chapter so thoroughly in his address at our Semi-Annual Convocation last May, that it has left little for this committee to do, further than to copy such portions of the proceedings as relate specially to the District of Columbia. This official transcript will be interesting to the Companions in this jurisdiction who desire the particulars respecting the action of the General Grand Chapter, although they are aware of the general result.

Twenty-three Grand Chapters were represented, viz: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine,

Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

The following Grand Chapters, having seceded from the General Grand Chapter at various times, were not represented, viz: Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Texas, and Vermont. The Grand Chapters of Florida, Virginia, and Pennsylvania never recognized the General Grand Chapter since it organized, and, of course, were not represented.

The Grand Chapter of Delaware has been formed since that time by General Grand High Priest Austin, although a Grand Chapter seemed to exist there, according to the papers and protests filed at this Triennial Convocation by its Grand High Priest.

The proceedings say that the General Grand Chapter was "called to order" by Companion John L. Lewis, M. E. General Grand High Priest.

The address of the General Grand High Priest covers thirteen closely printed pages. It discusses the condition of Capitular Masonry in the United States and the health of the General Grand Chapter. He devotes a large share of the address to a copious recital of the necessities of a General Grand Chapter, and gives many reasons why it should live and have some governing power. He declares that it is not useless, and ought not to die. But a resolution offered in 1865 to amend the Constitution, so as to give the General Grand Chapter a little power and authority over State Grand Chapters, was laid on the table by the decided vote of fifty-one to thirty-five. As General Grand High Priest Austin offered this amendment in 1865, which laid over to 1868 for action, he must have a realizing sense of what the General Grand Chapter thinks about giving him any power or authority *ad interim*.

This will undoubtedly prove to be the last attempt to give the General Grand Chapter any power and delegate to it any authority over a State Grand Chapter. The verdict given by this vote seems to be, that the General Grand Chapter is harmless and very proper, as long as its teeth are drawn and there is no masticating power.

The Royal Arch Craft of the United States do not complain of the acts of the General Grand Chapter, but they do complain of the unwarranted and unauthorized acts of the General Grand High Priests during the long period of three years intervening between sessions. The General Grand Chapter has never attempted to do anything that its constitution forbid or did not allow. The General Grand High Priests have assumed power that the body over which they preside never had nor attempted to exercise. This is the experience of the District of Columbia and Delaware, and is the reason why the powerful States that now refuse to recognize the General Grand Chapter, stand aloof, and refuse to make the Royal Arch of States complete.

The singular position taken by General Grand High Priest Lewis and his explanations of his conduct, in rendering his stewardship to the General Grand Chapter, are all familiar to Companions in the District of Columbia; but they will no doubt desire to see that part of his address relating exclusively to the trouble he caused us here, and so we transcribe it to these pages *verbatim*. He puts on paper here his ideas of the controversy, and apologizes to the General

Grand Chapter for his conduct. During the long controversy, when respectful and courteous letters were sent to him by distinguished Masons here, whose learning and Masonic reputation on both sides of the Atlantic entitled them to at least a respectful reply, not a word was uttered by General Grand High Priest Lewis, and their letters were unanswered, and they were treated with contempt. Coming from more distinguished Masons than General Grand High Priest Lewis can ever hope to be, it showed a spirit which others may describe. Remembering these facts, it is well to know how he broke the silence in his address. Here is every word he said about the District of Columbia:

"A question arose during the past year which has claimed a large share of attention in the locality affected by it, from its bearing upon the Masonic standing and relations of individual Royal Arch Masons. Let its history briefly be stated, corroborated as it is by documents to be laid before you.

"The Chapters in the District of Columbia, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, being four in number, of which Potomac Chapter was one, desirous of forming an independent Grand Chapter, obtained consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia to have its jurisdiction over them released and ceded. The four Chapters then appointed nine delegates each (one Chapter appointing through its High Priest) to a Convention to be held for the purpose of forming a Grand Chapter. The Convention met and resolved to constitute a Grand Chapter, at which point the delegates from Potomac Chapter left the Convention, and did not again take their places in it. The Convention, consisting of the delegates of three Chapters, continued its sessions, adopted a constitution and elected Grand officers, and appointed a day for their installation. At this point of time application was made for the consent required by the Constitution. A letter was addressed to me by the late lamented Companion Whiting, then Grand Master, written in very courteous and fraternal terms, and asking the above-mentioned consent, and, as the time was short, requesting a telegraphic reply, leaving the formal written answer to follow. Acting under the impression that the only consent necessary was that of Maryland, but, if otherwise, that all the previous constitutional steps had been taken, a telegraphic answer was forwarded, giving the required consent. The Grand Chapter was subsequently instituted, and the Grand officers installed by Most Excellent Companion Mackey, Past General Grand High Priest.

"Having subsequently learned the true state of the facts, and jealous of the rights of this Grand body, and determined to maintain them, I issued an edict declaring the formation of the Grand Chapter to have been irregular, and fraternally requesting the Companions to retrace their steps, and to proceed legally to form anew within thirty days, and promising them all the assistance in my power toward the formation of a Grand Chapter.

"This was replied to by an edict from the newly-installed Grand High Priest, in substance forbidding any obedience to my edict.

"Information subsequently obtained induced me for a time to believe that I had been mistaken in my views upon the question, and I thereupon stated openly that I should voluntarily withdraw the edict issued by me, and should most

willingly and promptly have done so, had I not subsequently obtained official information that my first view of the facts was the correct one.

"In the meantime Potomac Chapter, having refused to come under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, placed itself under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, a right formerly recognized by me, and in consequence of which it was declared by the Grand Chapter of District of Columbia to be a clandestine Chapter, and its members clandestine Royal Arch Masons.

"Such is a brief statement of the facts growing out of this unpleasant matter, and if, in making it, I have committed any errors in the details, or omitted any fact essential to a full understanding of the subject, it has been unintentional, and will be easily corrected by the documents. And, in this connection, it is proper to state that, if any statements were made to me by parties which were erroneous, I fully believe the error was unintentional and without attempt to deceive. The discussion to which the matter gave rise was sufficiently acrimonious, but the only pain that I feel was in the loss of the good will of my Companions of the District, and not in any asperity of expression towards me.

"The positions taken by me relative to this question are these:

"1. That when Maryland ceded its jurisdiction over the Chapters of the District, which was before the formation of its Grand Chapter, they became subordinates under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

"2. That being such subordinates, the consent of one of the first four General Grand officers was necessary before any steps whatever could be taken towards the formation of a Grand Chapter.

"3. The Convention which formed the Grand Chapter was irregularly constituted, as others than the three first officers of the Chapter were delegates.

"The latter two points were irregularities which would have been overlooked had not the first existed, and had it not appeared that the acts of the Convention, as well as the edict of the Grand High Priest, were in bold defiance of the authority of the General Grand Chapter. Although the latter was subsequent to my edict, yet it manifests the spirit of the body, as it then existed, and was uncalled for by anything in the edict issued by me.

"But the whole question is now divested of any practical importance, except as relates to the position of Potomac Chapter and its members. Authentic information has reached me that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia has resolved to place itself under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, and to be represented in this Triennial Convocation. If such be the fact, overlooking—nay, even forgetting—the past, I most cordially recommend its recognition, the irregularities in its formation being healed by your act, and its representatives admitted. The only point for which I have striven, not on my own behalf, but yours—the acknowledgment of the rightful jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter—sinks all others to insignificance. But, on the other hand, I demand in justice that the Potomac Chapter be protected, its chartered rights as one of our constituents recognized, and its disciplined members fully restored."

We next find in the proceedings the

"Majority and minority reports as to the legality of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

"Companion Coffinbury, from the select committee to whom was referred so much of the address of the G. . G. . H. . Priest as relates to the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the recently-formed Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, submitted a report for himself and Companion Todd."

[*Mem.*—The names of Companions Stone and Stearns having been withdrawn therefrom, and the name of Companion Barrett subsequently erased by him before disposition of the report.]

"The majority of your committee report that this General Grand body, under its powers as circumscribed by the provisions of the constitution, has no authority to interfere with the affairs of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and her subordinates; that this whole matter is within the power of that Grand Chapter; and that this General Grand body cannot exercise jurisdiction in the premises.

"Your committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the whole subject-matter of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia be, and is hereby, dismissed.

"Minority report.

"Companion Stone presented the following:

"A minority of the committee to whom was referred so much of the address of the G. . G. . H. . Priest as relates to the Grand Chapters of Maryland and the District of Columbia, respectfully report, that in their opinion the Grand Chapters of Maryland and the District of Columbia, by resolution duly adopted and published with their proceedings, relinquished jurisdiction over Chapters in the District of Columbia; and a Grand Chapter having been formed from those Chapters, and being here present by their Grand officers, and asking recognition by this General Grand body, therefore,

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is hereby recognized as a regular Grand Chapter, and its officers entitled to seats in this General Grand Chapter.

"Resolved, That Potomac Chapter, within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, not having united in the formation of said Grand Chapter, is now under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, but *without territorial jurisdiction* over candidates for the Capitular degrees.

"Resolved, That all acts of censure, suspension, or expulsion, growing out of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, be declared null and void, and the Companions of the District of Columbia who may have been in affiliation with Potomac Chapter be, and are hereby, declared to be in good and regular standing as members of such Chapter.

"SEYMOUR H. STONE.

"CHARLES W. STEARNS.

"After discussion, the further consideration of the reports was deferred, to permit the introduction of other business."

Subsequently it was again taken up, as follows, after a recess:

"The consideration of matters as to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was renewed. The question being on the resolutions of Companion Stone, of the minority committee, Companion Coffinbury moved to indefinitely postpone the whole subject. Lost. On motion of Companion Todd, the first and second resolutions were consolidated, but a division of the question being called for, the first resolution was adopted.

"Companion Bruns proposed to have stricken from the last resolution the words, 'but without territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the Capitular degrees.' On this question the yeas and nays were called.

"Those who voted in the affirmative were:

"AYES—Grand King, 1; Louisiana, 4; Maryland, 4; Massachusetts, 1; New Hampshire, 3; New Jersey, 4; South Carolina, 4; Tennessee, 4. Total—25.

"Those who voted in the negative, were:

"NAYS—G. G. H. P., 1; G. G. Secretary, 1; G. G. Treasurer, 1; G. C. H., 1; G. R. A. C., 1; Connecticut, 4; Illinois, 4; Indiana, 4; Maine, 4; Missouri, 4; Massachusetts, 3; Minnesota, 4; New Hampshire, 1; New York, 4; Ohio, 4; Wisconsin, 4. Total—45.

"The motion to strike out was not agreed to.

"The committee on credentials reported as duly enrolled the first four officers of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and the report was approved.

"The question being on the second resolution, placing Potomac Chapter under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, the yeas and nays were called, and the second resolution was adopted—yeas 47, nays 26.

"Those voting in the affirmative were:

"AYES—G. G. H. P., 1; G. G. Secretary, 1; G. G. Treasurer, 1; G. C. H., 1; Connecticut, 4; Louisiana, 4; Maine, 4; Maryland, 4; Missouri, 4; Massachusetts, 4; Minnesota, 4; New Hampshire, 1; New Jersey, 2; New York, 4; Tennessee, 4; Wisconsin, 4. Total—47.

"Those voting in the negative, were:

"NAYS—Grand King, 1; District of Columbia, 4; Illinois, 4; Indiana, 4; New Hampshire, 3; New Jersey, 2; Ohio, 4; South Carolina, 4. Total—26.

"The third resolution was adopted without a division."

The above is a *verbatim* copy of all that portion of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter that relates to our Grand Chapter, thus completing a transcript of all its proceedings relating to the District of Columbia.

Every requirement of the General Grand Chapter has been complied with; and the resolutions adopted by that General Grand body have been carried out in letter and spirit, as will be seen by referring to the proceedings of the Semi-Annual Convocation last May.

The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia having complied with all these requirements, is now in full communion with the General Grand Chapter. Although she has had good reason to find fault with the unauthorized and self-imposed acts of General Grand High Priests, she finds no fault with the action of the General Grand Chapter, and has cheerfully obeyed all that was asked of

her. Whether these acts of the General Grand Chapter were proper or legal, is quite another question, which others not interested must determine. It would be confessing to a great degree of ignorance on the part of our Companions, to say that we all believed that they were.

Its action in taking a subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction under its own authority, has been condemned by every Grand Chapter, and every Royal Arch Mason in all the nation whose opinion is worth mentioning. We are willing to submit this question to any intelligent Mason and abide his decision. No Grand Chapter in the United States would have admitted such an invasion of its rights without a protest. Potomac Chapter at Georgetown is in the District of Columbia, and must therefore be under the authority of the Grand Chapter here. Our claim over Potomac Chapter is founded in the first principle of Masonic law, that each State Grand Chapter governs its own territory. Maryland is obliged to admit this, and knows that she is doing wrong in pretending now to have authority over Potomac Chapter.

"By various text we both uphold our claim,
Nay, often ground our titles on the same,
After long labor lost, and time's expense,
Both grant the words, and quarrel for the sense;
Thus all disputes forever must depend,
For no dumb rule can controversies end."—*Dryden*.

This whole controversy is important because it involves the rights of State Grand Chapters. The General Grand Chapter taking Potomac Chapter away from both jurisdictions may be compared to Pope's lines, as follows:

"Once (says an author, where I need not say)
Two travelers found an oyster in their way;
Both fierce, both hungry, the dispute grew strong,
While, scale in hand, Dame Justice passed along.
Before her each with clamor pleads the laws,
Explained the matter, and would win the cause.
Dame Justice, weighing long the doubtful right,
Takes, opens, swallows it, before their sight.
The cause of strife removed so rarely well,
There take (says Justice) take you each a shell,
We thrive at Westminster on fools like you,
T' was a fat oyster—live in peace—adieu."

As the General Grand Chapter, like Dame Justice, took this Potomac oyster, we are anxious to know why it is now resting on the Maryland half-shell.

CONCLUSION.

Your committee having read over *four thousand pages* of the proceedings of Grand Chapters in communication with this Grand Chapter, as well as a mass of pamphlets, edicts, and official documents of various kinds, can say, in conclusion, that only a few gems from the galaxy of diadems have been plucked, and reproduced in these proceedings. The rest are not presented for want of space. So much work has been presented for inspection, and passed the overseers square, that it seems a great loss that all the Companions in the District of Columbia cannot examine it. But for want of room we must heave it over among the rubbish.

Our fraters of the quill abroad will please take our parting hand. We have tried to treat all fairly and fraternally. We belong to no mutual admiration society, and criticise candidly; but do not consider indiscriminate laudation to be Masonic courtesy.

JOHN EDWIN MASON,
Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Companion Hancock, Grand Visitor and Lecturer, submitted the following report, which was received and ordered to be printed with the proceedings:

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia.

COMPANIONS: On the 30th of June, the Grand Chapter adopted the work of the Committee on Revision of the Royal Arch degree, the preceding degrees having been completed some months previous; since that time, I have endeavored to disseminate it as far as possible, have visited each Chapter, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, with the exception of Eureka, which I have been unable to attend as frequently, in consequence of my Lodge meeting on the same evening. I am happy to report them all in a very prosperous condition, and striving to conform to the work of this Grand Chapter. The officers are prompt at the meetings of their respective Chapters, and the Companions working harmoniously, which can be attributed to the fact that great care is exercised in the admission of candidates, none being permitted to enter except such as are qualified to receive additional light, and thus beautify our noble edifice.

Since my appointment to this office, I have found that it was the desire of the Companions generally, to perfect themselves in the work, feeling that this could be accomplished to the satisfaction of *all* in no better manner than by establishing a school for instruction, concluded to do so Saturday, September 11. We continue to meet for that purpose on the second Saturday of each month, and the punctual attendance of the Companions gives promise of success.

I am happy to say that we have received numerous encomiums from visiting Companions in regard to the manner in which our work is done as well as to its conformity to that of nearly all the Grand Chapters in the United States, which should be a source of satisfaction to every member of our young jurisdiction.

* * * * *

In conclusion, let us hope that, ere another Masonic year shall have elapsed, we may all become thoroughly proficient in the work of our order to enable us more fully to comprehend its sublime truths; let the Holy Bible, which is the written part of Masonry, stimulate us in the performance of our duties; may harmony, which is beauty; plenty, which is strength; and light, which is wisdom, pervade our respective Convocations, and may each be able to exclaim with one of our ancient brethren, "I have found it."

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. HANCOCK, G. V. L.

Companion MacGrotty, from the Committee on Accounts, submitted the following report, which was received and ordered to be printed with the proceedings:

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

COMPANIONS: Your Finance Committee, appointed to examine the books of the Grand Treasurer of this Grand Chapter, respectfully beg leave to report: That they have performed the duty assigned them, and find the books of the Grand Treasurer kept in a neat, correct, and business-like manner—vouchers correct for all expenditures; and that there has been received from all sources during the past year the sum of.....	\$90 00
Cash on hand at last meeting of Grand Chapter.....	599 71
	<hr/>
	689 71
Disbursed during the past year, as per vouchers.....	709 01
	<hr/>
	\$19 30

leaving this Grand Chapter at present date in debt to its Grand Treasurer in the sum of \$19 30.

Although this showing may not be as flattering as some of the Companions might expect, still, taking into consideration the heavy disbursements during the past year to pay expenses of Companions to General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, Missouri, printing, &c., your committee think it a matter of congratulation that this young Grand Chapter has held its own, and, in fact, will next year show a handsome balance in its favor.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. B. MACGROTTY,
C. W. HANCOCK.

Companion Daniels, on behalf of the committee to whom was referred the resolution relating to the exaltation of Companion J. Lee Adams by LaFayette Chapter, No. 5, submitted the following report:

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Your committee, to whom was referred the following resolution, to wit:

"Whereas the name of J. Lee Adams appears upon the list of members returned to this Grand Chapter by LaFayette Chapter, No. 5; and whereas the petition of the said J. Lee Adams was rejected by Columbia R.: A.: Chapter, at its Convocation of April 17, 1867; and whereas said Columbia Chapter has never given its consent to the exaltation of said Adams, as required by the Constitution of this Grand R.: A.: Chapter, be it

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to investigate the circumstances of the case, and recommend to this Grand R.: A.: Chapter such action as they may deem necessary in the premises."

beg leave to report: That they have had the same under consideration, and are of the opinion that the action of LaFayette R.: A.: Chapter, in receiving the

pétition of J. Lee Adams, was in direct violation of section four (4,) article twenty-two (22) of this Grand Chapter; but as your committee are informed, LaFayette Chapter had no notice of said rejection, and therefore no blame can be attached to her for said action.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. DANIELS,
C. W. HANCOCK,
J. MOODY SMITH,
Committee.

Companions Middleton and Buchly submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the subordinate Chapters of this jurisdiction shall hereafter require all applicants for the Capitular degrees to state on their applications whether they have or have not made a like application to any other Chapter for the degrees, and also to state their occupation and place of residence.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand Chapter a code of by-laws which had been adopted by Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, which, on motion, was approved.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand Chapter a communication from the G. G. Secretary of the United States, announcing that the Grand Chapter of Florida had accepted the invitation of the General Grand Chapter, and become a constituent member thereof, which was ordered to be placed on file.

Companion J. T. Brown moved that the wearing of robes while conferring the R. A. degree be left optional with the Chapters, which was disagreed to.

On motion, it was voted that Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, be permitted to dispense with the use of the robes until such time as her financial condition will justify it in purchasing the same.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was directed to change the time of meeting of the Annual Convocation, as printed in the Constitution, from 7 to 7½ o'clock, the same being a misprint.

On motion, it was voted that the Grand Chapter rent, in connection with the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the portion in the New Masonic Temple set apart for the use of the Grand bodies, at an annual rent for each body of \$100.

On motion, a sum sufficient to pay for one page in the Masonic Calendar for the District of Columbia, for the use of the Grand Chapter, was appropriated.

On motion, the following appropriations were made:

To Grand Visitor and Lecturer Hancock, for past services, \$50.

For furnishing apartment in Masonic Temple, \$150; for advertising in Evening Star, \$3 75.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result:

Comp. B. B. FRENCH	<i>M.: E.: Grand High Priest.</i>
" J. LOCKIE	<i>R.: E.: D.: Grand High Priest.</i>
" J. DANIELS	<i>R.: E.: Grand King.</i>
" E. B. MACGROTTY	<i>R.: E.: Grand Scribe.</i>
" N. D. LARNER	<i>R.: E.: Grand Secretary.</i>
" C. SMITH	<i>R.: E.: Grand Treasurer.</i>
" A. HOLMEAD	<i>Rev. and E.: Grand Chaplain.</i>
" A. T. LONGLEY	<i>E.: Grand Captain of Host.</i>

There being no further business, the Grand Chapter was called to a Resumed Convocation on Thursday afternoon, 11th instant, at 5 o'clock.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 11, 1869.

The Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia met at 5 o'clock p. m., and resumed work.

PRESENT.

M.: E.: Comp. B. B. FRENCH	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R.: E.: " J. LOCKIE	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" " A. T. LONGLEY	<i>as Grand King.</i>
" " W. MIDDLETON	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" " N. D. LARNER	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" " C. SMITH	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
" " C. W. HANCOCK	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
E.: " J. DANIELS	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" " E. B. MACGROTTY	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" " J. EDWIN MASON	<i>Grand Royal Arch Captain.</i>
" " I. L. JOHNSON	<i>as Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
" " C. E. COON	<i>as Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
" " D. S. JONES	<i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
Comp. L. STODDARD	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priest, J. E. F. HOLMEAD.

Past Grand King, C. W. HANCOCK.

Representatives from Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5.

The M.: E.: Grand High Priest announced the following appointments:

Comp. C. W. HANCOCK	as Grand Visitor and Lecturer.
" J. EDWIN MASON	as Grand Principal Sojourner.
" J. W. GRIFFIN	as Grand Royal Arch Captain.
" R. A. FISH	as Grand Master of 3d Vail.
" D. S. JONES	as Grand Master of 2d Vail.
" A. GLASS	as Grand Master of 1st Vail.
" L. STODDARD	as Grand Janitor.

Committee on Examination—

L. G. STEPHENS,
JOS. T. BROWN,
D. B. SEARLE.

Committee on Grievances—

ANTHONY BUCHLY,
ANDREW GLASS,
H. A. WHALLON.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence—

J. EDWIN MASON,
CHARLES E. COON,
CHAUNCEY SMITH.

Committee on Accounts—

E. B. MacGROTTY,
WM. MIDDLETON,
CHAS. W. HANCOCK.

Committee on Jurisprudence—

N. P. CHIPMAN,
JOS. DANIELS,
JNO. LOCKIE.

M.: E.: Companion J. E. F. Holmead, P.: G.: H.: P.: , then installed M.: E.: Companion B. B. French as G.: H.: P.: , who subsequently installed the other officers, both elective and appointed, excepting Companion J. Lockie, D.: G.: H.: P.: , elect, who was absent.

The Grand Secretary submitted the following amendment to the Constitution, as section 4 of article I:

SEC. 4. Special Convocations may be called by the M.: E.: G.: H.: P.: upon emergent occasions; but no business shall be transacted at such Convocations other than that for which they may have been called.

There being no further business, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL CONVOCAATION.

WASHINGTON, November 25, 1869.

A Special Convocation of the G. R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall at 5 o'clock, p. m., and was opened in ample form.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	B. B. FRENCH.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. "	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
"	J. DANIELS.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
"	E. B. MacGROTTY.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
"	C. SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E. "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of Hosts.</i>
"	A. HOLMEAD.....	<i>Rev. and Grand Chaplain.</i>
"	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
"	JOHN EDWIN MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
"	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
"	R. A. FISH.....	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
"	D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
"	E. H. FULLER.....	<i>as Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
Comp.	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>
Past Grand High Priests, J. E. F. HOLMEAD, J. G. SMITH.		
Past Deputy Grand High Priest, L. G. STEPHENS.		
Past Grand Kings, C. W. HANCOCK, H. A. WHALLON.		
Past Grand Scribe, W. MIDDLETON.		

Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The M. E. Grand High Priest stated that he had called the Grand Chapter together for the purpose of receiving a communication from the Grand Chapter of Maryland, which was read by the Grand Secretary, as follows:

BALTIMORE, November 15, 1869.

N. D. LARNER, Esq.,

Grand Secretary, &c., Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR AND COMPANION: In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, at the Annual Convocation held in this city November 8, instant, I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed certified copy of preamble and resolutions unanimously adopted on that date.

Fraternally, yours,

[L. S.]

WILLIAM A. WENTZ,
Grand Secretary, &c.

BALTIMORE, November 8, 1869.

To the M. E. G. H. Priest, Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of R. A. Masons of Maryland and the District of Columbia :

The committee to whom was referred the preamble and resolutions offered by Companion George A. Hanson have carefully considered the same, and respectfully offer the following as a substitute therefor:

Whereas difficulties have heretofore existed between the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia and the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, arising from the fact that in the view of this Grand Chapter the amendment to its constitution necessary to give validity to the release of a portion of its territory was not lawfully adopted; and

Whereas, in view of the fact of the recognition of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and a majority of, if not all, the State Grand Chapters, and of the desire of this Grand Chapter to pay due respect to the judgments of the General Grand Chapter, and to cultivate amicable and fraternal relations with all its peers, as well as to promote the harmony and unity of Royal Arch Masonry, notwithstanding the belief of its membership that its just rights have been overlooked, does hereby

Resolve 1. That the Grand Constitution be amended, by striking therefrom so much as relates to the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter over the territory of the District of Columbia.

Resolve 2. That the Grand Chapter does hereby waive and relinquish its jurisdiction over the District of Columbia so long as it remains the seat of the National Government, and also does hereby recognise the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as a regular Grand Chapter, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of its peers throughout the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Resolve 3. That henceforth the title of this Grand Chapter shall be the "Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland."

Resolve 4. That all resolutions heretofore passed by this Grand Chapter inconsistent with these resolutions be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMON L. EMMONS, Jr.
W. MORRIS SMITH.
GEORGE L. MCCAHAN.
WM. H. FAULKNER.
E. T. SCHULTZ.

• Test: WILLIAM A. WENTZ,
Grand Secretary.

On motion of the Grand Secretary, it was voted that the communication be received and printed with the proceedings, and the Grand Chapter of Maryland be placed on the list of corresponding Grand bodies of this Grand Chapter.

Companion Mason stated that as the Committee on Foreign

Correspondence had submitted their report at the Annual Convocation, previous to the action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland which had been reported to-night, he would suggest the propriety of the committee being authorized to prepare a supplemental report relating to this action and print the same with the report previously submitted; whereupon, on motion, it was voted that the committee be authorized to prepare and print a supplemental report, as suggested by Companion Mason.

M. E. Companion J. E. F. Holmead then remarked that he desired the Grand Chapter should place a construction on the meaning of the report of the committee on the Grand High Priest's address, found in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of November 30, 1868. Companion Holmead further remarked, that in his opinion the report accepted the action of the General Grand Chapter entire, and thereby restored all Companions who had been disciplined on account of difficulties growing out of the formation of the Grand Chapter, but as this opinion was not coincided in by other Companions, he would therefore request that the Grand Chapter decide whether he was right in his construction of the meaning of the report or not.

After a lengthy debate on the subject, on motion, it was referred to the M. E. G. H. Priest, (he having been chairman of the committee that submitted the report referred to,) with the request that he furnish the Grand Chapter with his views on the subject at a Resumed Convocation to be held on the 30th instant.

The Grand Chapter was then called to a Resumed Convocation to be held on the 30th instant.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *November 30, 1869.*

The Grand R. A. Chapter met at 5 o'clock p. m., and resumed labor.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	B. B. FRENCH.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E.	" J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
"	" J. DANIELS.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
"	" E. B. MacGROTTY.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	" N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>

R.: E.: Comp.	C. SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E.: " "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of the Hosts.</i>
" " "	JOHN EDWIN MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" " "	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand Royal Arch Captain.</i>
" " "	R. A. FISH.....	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
" " "	D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
" " "	J. E. PORTER.....	<i>as Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
" " "	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priests, J. E. F. HOLMEAD, J. G. SMITH.

Past Deputy Grand High Priest, L. G. STEPHENS.

Past Grand Kings, A. GLASS, C. W. HANCOCK, H. A. WHALLON.

Past Grand Scribe, W. MIDDLETON.

And representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The M.: E.: Grand High Priest stated that Companion Glass had declined the appointment of Grand Master of 1st Vail, and that he had appointed Companion J. E. Porter to fill the vacancy. Companion Porter was then presented and duly installed as Grand Master of 1st Vail for the remainder of the current year.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand Chapter the following communication:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY POTOMAC R.: A.: CHAPTER, No. 8,
GEORGETOWN, D. C., November 30, 1869.

To the M.: E.: H.: Priest, King, Scribe, and Companions of the Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia.

At a called communication of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, held on Monday evening, November 29, 1869, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That Potomac Chapter, No. 8, is desirous to resume fraternal relations with the Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia, and we trust the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia will meet them in the same fraternal spirit.

Fraternally,

WM. W. WHEELER,
Secretary.

The foregoing communication having been read, Companion D. S. Jones submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be directed to inform Potomac Chapter of the receipt by this Grand Chapter of their resolution of the 29th instant, and that upon receipt of a petition from said Chapter, the same will be considered in a respectful and fraternal spirit.

The M.: E.: Grand High Priest, who had been requested by the Grand Chapter to give his views as to the meaning of the report and resolutions adopted by the Grand Chapter, November 30, 1868, submitted the following, which having been read, was on motion accepted as the correct interpretation of the report and resolutions referred to therein.

To the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia.

COMPANIONS: In accordance with the expressed wish of the Grand Chapter, I will state my own views as to the meaning of the report and resolutions adopted by this Grand body, on the 30th day of November, 1868, on the address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and the second and third resolutions passed by the General Grand Chapter, at St. Louis, at its last triennial meeting, touching the previous action of this Grand Chapter and the status of Potomac Chapter.

The committee took the ground that the action of the General Grand Chapter, after it had acknowledged this Grand Chapter as "a regular Grand Chapter, and its officers entitled to seats in the General Grand Chapter," had, under its own Constitution, "no power of discipline, admonition, censure, or instruction" over it, and therefore, in undertaking to declare its acts null and void, and the Companions of this district who had affiliated with Potomac Chapter, in good and regular standing, as members of Potomac Chapter, had exceeded its constitutional powers.

But this Grand Chapter having submitted its status to the decision of the General Grand Chapter, and having an earnest desire that all the difficulties in this Royal Arch jurisdiction should be amicably adjusted, waived all objections, and by a *compromise* proceeded to such action as they supposed would lead to harmonious action amongst us.

This Grand Chapter accordingly proceeded to adopt a resolution, reported by its committee, rescinding all resolutions, orders, or edicts which had been adopted, made, or issued by it, or any of its officers, suspending or expelling any Companion or Companions on account of the difficulties growing out of the formation of this Grand Chapter, and also the edict declaring Potomac Chapter clandestine, and declaring all such Companions (*i. e.* any Companions who had been suspended or expelled by this Grand Chapter and no others) restored to their standing in this Grand Chapter as Royal Arch Masons.

There can certainly be no doubt as to the meaning and effect of that resolution.

The intention of it was to carry out in good faith everything that was required of it by the General Grand Chapter, that, under the strict rules of Masonic jurisprudence, it could do.

The effect of it was to acknowledge Potomac Chapter as a regular Chapter, possessing all the powers that the General Grand Chapter had awarded to it, and restoring to all their rights and privileges in this Grand Chapter, any Royal Arch Masons who had, by this Grand Chapter, in any manner been disciplined by it, on account of the difficulties growing out of its formation.

The other resolution, after setting forth what this Grand Chapter considered the well-settled rule of Masonic jurisprudence, "that no Grand body has any power over a subordinate body of a review of the action of such subordinate, in relation to the discipline of its members, except on appeal," went on to recommend such action, on the part of its subordinates, as would carry out, in good faith, the spirit and meaning of the resolutions of the General Grand Chapter, so far as the conduct of the Companions heretofore dealt with may be consistent with such resolutions since their adoption.

It is well known that the subordinate Chapters had expelled several members for unmasonic conduct, "growing out" of the difficulties consequent upon the formation of this Grand Chapter. Had those Companions appealed from the action of the subordinate Chapters to this Grand Chapter, it would have possessed jurisdiction over their cases, and there would have been no difficulty on that point. But they did not, and therefore this Grand Chapter considered that the entire power of restoration remained in the Chapters by which they were expelled; and, with this view, recommended "*such action*," leaving the kind of action to the judgment of the subordinates, as would carry out in good faith the spirit and meaning of the resolution of the General Grand Chapter.

This was all that this Grand Chapter supposed it had any authority for doing; and this was done in the utmost good faith, with the hope, doubtless, that the subordinate Chapters would follow the recommendation of the Grand Chapter. They did not, however, do it, and so far as relates to the subordinate Chapters, who had pronounced verdicts of expulsion against their members, those members stood as expelled Royal Arch Masons.

But prior to the adoption by this Grand Chapter of the resolution now under consideration, Potomac Chapter, disregarding the provisions of the resolution of the General Grand Chapter placing her under the jurisdiction of that body "without territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the Capitular degree," had placed herself under the jurisdiction of a Grand Chapter out of the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter; some of her members had become officers of that Grand Chapter; and public rumor assured us that she had assumed territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the Capitular degrees.

In consequence of what this Grand Chapter considered this unwarrantable conduct on the part of Potomac Chapter, and its apparent repudiation of the action of the General Grand Chapter, this Grand Chapter added to the second resolution the last clause, which perhaps had its effect in preventing the subordinate Chapters from any action in relation to the members resting under expulsion.

Up to the time when Potomac Chapter commenced the unjustifiable course above indicated, this Grand Chapter was bound, under the compromise between it and the General Grand Chapter, to regard Potomac Chapter as a legal Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

After that, we, as a loyal constituent of the General Grand Chapter, solemnly bound to recognize and defend its acts, could not, consistently with the dignity of that General Grand body and our own sense of propriety, recognize Potomac Chapter.

We, however, actuated by the very best and kindest motives, appointed a committee to receive and consider any propositions Potomac Chapter might make to become a constituent member of this Grand Chapter.

That resolution, instead of being acted on with the same kind and fraternal feeling which prompted its adoption, was, as we were officially informed, referred to a foreign Grand Chapter, and we have heard nothing further from it!

The *intention* of the second resolution was to lead to a settlement of all the difficulties existing between this Grand body and Potomac Chapter, and to produce harmony and kind feeling by carrying out, under the *compromise* to which we had tacitly acceded with the General Grand Chapter, its requirements.

The *effect* has been, up to this time, to leave those Companions belonging to Potomac Chapter who had been expelled by the subordinate Chapters here precisely in the condition where they stood at the moment the vote of expulsion was passed, without any rights as Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

Recent events, however, looking to a final settlement of all our Royal Arch troubles in the District of Columbia, it is to be hoped will result in such a settlement, and will bring again within our fold, in love and harmony, every Royal Arch Mason residing within the jurisdiction.

A consummation like this will be hailed with joy by every true-hearted Companion in the United States, and ought to be so great a cause of rejoicing here as to lead to such a jubilee as will call together all the Craft in heartfelt congratulation and fraternal feeling toward each other so enduring that neither time nor circumstances can mar the union!

B. B. FRENCH,
Grand High Priest.

M. E. Companion Holmead submitted the following resolution, which, after a very lengthy debate, was adopted by a vote of yea 22, nay 12:

Resolved, That, inasmuch as it was undoubtedly the intention of the General Grand Chapter, in passing the resolutions relative to this jurisdiction, to re-instate all those Companions as Royal Arch Masons who had been expelled in this jurisdiction on account of the troubles growing out of the formation of this Grand Chapter; and, inasmuch as the General Grand High Priest has expressed the opinion that such was the effect of those resolutions: Therefore, this Grand Chapter, actuated by a sincere desire to restore perfect harmony in this jurisdiction, hereby declares all Royal Arch Masons thus expelled for the cause stated, restored to all their rights and privileges as Royal Arch Masons.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER.
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, January 5, 1870.

A Special Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at 5 o'clock p. m.

PRESENT:

M. E. Comp.	B. B. FRENCH	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
"	" J. LOCKIE	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
"	" H. A. WHALLON	<i>Grand King.</i>
"	" E. B. MacGROTTY	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	" N. D. LARNER	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
"	" C. SMITH	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>

E. Comp.	A. T. LONGLEY	<i>Grand Captain of Hosts.</i>
"	" A. HOLMEAD	<i>Rev. and Grand Chaplain.</i>
"	" JOHN EDWIN MASON	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
"	" J. W. GRIFFIN	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
"	" R. A. FISH	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
"	" D. S. JONES	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
"	" W. H. EARLE	<i>as Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
"	" L. STODDARD	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priests, J. E. F. HOLMEAD and J. G. SMITH.

Past Deputy Grand High Priest, L. G. STEPHENS.

Past Grand Kings, H. A. WHALLON and A. GLASS.

Past Grand Scribe, W. MIDDLETON, and

Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The Grand Chapter having been opened in ample form, the M. E. Grand High Priest stated that he had called the Grand Chapter together for the purpose of receiving and considering a petition for a charter, which he had been informed Potomac Chapter, No. 8, desired to present to the Grand Chapter.

Companion W. Morris Smith, M. E. High Priest of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, then presented the following papers, which were read by the Grand Secretary:

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, King, Scribe, and Members of the R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia, greeting:

In accordance with the resolution hereunto annexed, I, as High Priest of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, in Georgetown, D. C., having obtained authority from the M. E. G. Grand High Priest to carry out the instructions conveyed in the remaining portion of that resolution, do hereby, in the name of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, respectfully ask of your Grand Chapter a charter on the terms and conditions expressed in said resolution, and that Potomac Chapter, No. 8, with the accompanying list of members, may be enrolled as a constituent of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia on an equal footing with all its peers.

Should this petition be granted, I, in the name of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, promise a strict conformity to the Constitution and regulations of your Grand Chapter.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

W. MORRIS SMITH,
High Priest.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY POTOMAC R. A. CHAPTER, No. 8,
GEORGETOWN, D. C., December 29, 1869.

To the G. H. Priest and Companions of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia.

COMPANIONS: At a regular Communication of Potomac Chapter, held on the 21st instant, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the M. E. H. Priest be instructed to ask authority of, and

on obtaining the same from, the G. : G. : H. : Priest, to make application (in the name of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, as at present organized) to the Grand Chapter of R. : A. : Masons of the District of Columbia for a charter upon the same terms as charters were issued to the original Chapters, and in so doing he is hereby instructed to request that such charter may be issued as of the same name and number that this Chapter has been known by as herein above expressed.

Fraternally,

WM. W. WHEELER,

Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST
OF THE G. : G. : R. : A. : CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
NEW YORK, December 27, 1869.

To whomever it may concern, and specially to the Members of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, at Georgetown D. C., greeting:

Whereas the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States at its Triennial Convocation held in the city of St. Louis on the 15th day of September, 1868, did recognize the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia as a regular Grand Chapter, and did also adopt a resolution declaring that Potomac Chapter, within the territorial jurisdiction of the said Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, not having united in the formation of said Grand Chapter, was under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter; and

Whereas said Potomac Chapter, No. 8, located at Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, did, to wit, on the 21st day of December, 1869, cause the G. : G. : H. : Priest to be officially notified of its desire to place itself under the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and has asked his consent to apply to said Grand Chapter for a warrant:

Now, therefore, I, James M. Austin, G. : G. : H. : Priest, to the end that harmony may be restored to the Royal Craft in that locality, do by these presents authorize and empower said Potomac Chapter to make application to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia for a warrant, and should such application be favorably received and a warrant be granted, then said Potomac Chapter is hereby granted permission to place itself under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Given under my hand and private seal at the city of New York, this 27th day of December, 1869.

JAMES M. AUSTIN. [L. S.]
General Grand High Priest, &c.

Companion Coon objected to the reception of the petition, on the ground that section 2 of article 16 of the Grand Constitution, which requires that a fee of \$90 shall accompany every petition for a charter, had not been complied with, which objection the M. : E. : G. : H. : Priest overruled, and gave, for so doing, the following reasons:

Potomac Royal Arch Chapter, No. 8, petitions this Grand Chapter for a charter, and she does so under the assurance from this Grand Chapter that her application will be respectfully considered.

The question is now presented, whether it is necessary that Potomac Chapter, in making this application, should accompany it with \$90, the sum fixed for a charter by section 2 of article 16 of our Constitution?

I have given much consideration to this question, and have thought it of sufficient importance to reduce my views upon it to writing, that there may be no errors arise hereafter as to my reasons for my decision.

There can be no doubt that, whenever dispensations and charters are spoken of in our Constitution, the Grand Chapter only intended that those clauses should apply to Chapters *to be newly formed*, as in every instance a dispensation is first spoken of, and then a charter.

Potomac Chapter was regularly formed many years ago. It is the oldest Chapter in the District of Columbia, and certainly from 1825, in which year it stands on the record of the Grand Chapter of Maryland as Potomac Chapter, No. 8, to this date, it has been universally regarded, except for a brief period, by this Grand Chapter, as a Royal Arch Chapter in regular standing.

At the adjourned Convention, held on the 6th of April, 1867, to form this Grand Chapter, that Chapter was represented by no less than nine of its Companions, who acted in the formation, and one of its delegates, Companion E. B. Barrett, was elected a member of the Grand Council.

That Chapter, for some reason not given, declined to be represented at the next meeting of the Convention, and since that time has held its affiliation, a portion of the time to the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and a portion of it to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, but has never ceased to perform its functions as a regular Royal Arch Chapter.

In consequence of the unfortunate difficulties into which we were thrown here, mostly by the action of Royal Arch Masons residing outside of the jurisdiction, all our grievances were, by the general consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, this Grand Chapter, and Potomac Chapter, No. 8, referred for consideration and decision to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and having thus submitted to that governing body of Royal Arch Masonry in the United States, we were all in honor bound to abide by and carry out in good faith whatever decisions might be made by it.

Its decisions were made, and, as early as it possibly could, this Grand Chapter accepted them, and endeavored, as it supposed, and as it certainly intended, to carry them out faithfully, so far as they applied to this jurisdiction. By that decision the regularity of this Grand Chapter was confirmed and acknowledged, and Potomac Chapter was declared to be under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

The General Grand High Priest is the only one empowered to inquire whether the course of Potomac Chapter has been a proper one since it became an acknowledged constituent of the General Grand body over which he presides. With that question this Grand Chapter has nothing to do. We, by a solemn vote, on the 30th of November, 1868, acknowledged Potomac Chapter as a regular Royal Arch Chapter, and from that day to this it has been such to us, as it was before to all the world of Royal Arch Masonry excepting us.

Potomac Chapter, therefore, being an organized Chapter, and having, as such, in consequence of a resolution passed by this Grand Chapter, adopted a resolu-

tion to ask us for a charter, and, having obtained the consent of the General Grand High Priest to accept of that charter, if granted, I am clearly of opinion that it no more comes within any clause of our Grand Constitution regarding dispensations and charters, than did Columbia, Washington, and Mount Vernon Chapters, which all united in the formation of this Grand Chapter as organized bodies before the present Grand Constitution was formed, and were not required to pay anything for their charters.

But aside from all this, everything that has been done to heal our Royal Arch difficulties here has been done by way of compromise, and it is a part of that compromise that Potomac Chapter should become a constituent of this Grand Chapter. In healing these difficulties much must be given and taken on both sides. Magnanimity and forbearance must be leading virtues amongst us; and, when the healing process is fully accomplished, that brotherly love which should always prevail among Freemasons must be invoked, and may it descend upon us, as did the Spirit from on high upon Him who was born to save a world, and consecrate us to harmony and good fellowship for all time to come.

Companions, you elected me to this exalted station, as I believe, in the hope that my influence might be of some avail toward a happy settlement of all our Royal Arch difficulties. While I have stood firmly by you whenever a defence of your rights was necessary, I have sought all in my power to so far conciliate conflicting parties as to harmonize all the interests of Royal Arch Masonry here.

I know there are those who think that I have been inconsistent; perhaps I have been, for without inconsistency somewhere our troubles never could have been healed; and I flatter myself that the entire burden of inconsistency does not rest on my shoulders!

But I can say, in all sincerity, calling Heaven to witness its truth, that what I have done has been done with a full belief that it was for the benefit and glory of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, whose honor, whose welfare, and whose standing among the Royal Arch Craft of the world is as dear to me as my own life, and for the unanimity, harmony, and prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry here.

I now leave the whole matter in your hands. If you agree with me, a charter will be granted without the payment of a fee. If you do not, you will decline to grant one.

But should one be granted, I cannot doubt that Potomac Chapter, as a constituent of this Grand Chapter, will voluntarily make her contribution in proportion to her ability, as the three original Chapters did, toward the original expenses attending the formation of this Grand Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

B. B. FRENCH,
Grand High Priest.

Companion Whallon moved that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, which was adopted, a very large majority of the members of the Grand Chapter voting in favor of granting the prayer of the petitioners.

Companion Grand Secretary offered the following preamble and resolution, which were rejected:

Whereas, at a period subsequent to the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, Companions C. F. Perrie and H. H. McPherson were expelled from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry by Columbia Chapter, No. 1, on account of difficulties growing out of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia; and whereas the said Companions, immediately after the recognition of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia by the General Grand Chapter, (they at that time being members of Potomac Chapter, No. 8,) dimitted from Potomac Chapter and applied to Columbia Chapter, No. 1, for membership, but said petition was not entertained; and whereas by recent action of this Grand Chapter all Companions who had in any way been disciplined on account of difficulties growing out of the formation of this Grand Chapter have been restored to all their rights and privileges as Royal Arch Masons: therefore be it

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Chapter Companions C. F. Perrie and H. H. McPherson are members in good and regular standing of Columbia Chapter, No. 1.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample from.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

NOTE.—On the 18th of January, 1870, the M. E. Grand High Priest, accompanied by the officers and members of the Grand Chapter, and a very large number of Companions, visited Potomac Chapter, No. 8, and formally presented the charter ordered to be issued by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, thereby healing all difficulties and making the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter complete over all subordinate Chapters within its territory. May it forever continue.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RETURNS OF CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS,
WORKING UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

At the Annual Convocation in November, 1869, with the Names of their Officers for the Year Ending November.
1870.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER, No. 1.

Meets on the first and third Wednesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

JOSEPH T. BROWN, M.: E.: H.: Priest. HENRY S. MERRILL, E.: Scribe.
GEORGE D. PATTEN, Jr., E.: King. HENRY O. NOYES, Secretary.
 JOSIAH ESSEX, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

B. B. French, P.: G.: H.: Priest and M.: E.: G.: H.: Priest.
L. G. Stephens, P.: H.: Priest and P.: D.: G.: H.: Priest.
John Lockie, P.: H.: Priest and D.: G.: H.: Priest.

Royal Arch Masons.

Abbott, George A.	Brown, B. W.	Copp, H. N.
Acker, Nicholas	Brown, C. O.	Cowie, George
Albright, Frederick	Brown, E. R.	Creaser, Thomas
Baker, John C.	Brown, Joseph T.	Crosby, W. H.
Beatty, J. Hamilton	Browning, Horatio	Crossfield, G. R.
Beck, William	Bryan, William	Crown, Samuel T.
Bell, James E.	Burr, H. C.	Cruit, Henry
Bishop, David J.	Calvert, Frederick G.	Curtis, Henry B.
Bliss, D. W.	Casey, Charles C.	Demelman, D. S.
Bright, George A.	Cavanaugh, Thomas	Dengle, John P.
Boswell, R. H.	Champion, R. A.	Dillon, M. A.
Boteler, John W.	Choate, W. C.	Donaldson, R. B.
Bowen, Charles H.	Choate, Warren	Dummer, George E.
Branson, P. H.	Cohen, Mark	DeWitzleben, Arthur
Bruce, H. C.	Coleman, S. B.	Edmond, J. D.

Edwards, Edward	Klotz, Charles	Poynton, J. C.
Enderle, J. L.	Knox, George W.	Proctor, J. C.
Essex, Josiah	Kondrup, J. C.	Purdy, John
Fager, John C.	Leisnitzer, E. J.	Reed, W. B.
Ferguson, R. B.	Lobb, D. C.	Riley, Joseph S.
Ford, Charles M.	Lockie, John	Root, B. C.
French, B. B.	Lord, John B.	Russell, John H.
Froiseth, B. A. M.	Macarty, D. J.	Russell, Thomas
Garfield, James A.	Magee, James S.	Ryneal, George, jr.
Gawler, A. H.	McDonald, A.	Scheel, John E.
Gibson, George	McGuire, J. C.	Slater, Isaac C.
Gleason, James	McKee, James W.	Slater, John S.
Gould, C. G.	McKendry, Wallace	Small, Bruce
Griffith, C. T.	McLeod, J. M.	Smith, James G.
Hall, Rev. C. H.	McMurray, Robert	St Clair, James W.
Hammacher, Joseph	Merrill, H. S.	Stephens, L. G.
Hartung, C. E.	Milburn, Benedict	Stewart, J. C.
Heilbrun, L.	Mills, W. H.	Stoddard, L., jr.
Henderson, G. A.	Moore, Silas H.	Tenney, W. M.
Herzberg, Charles	Moore, W. O.	Thompson, Thomas
Hills, Wallace H.	Morgan, Henry	Tomlinson, J. S.
Holmead, Rev. A.	Moulden, John A.	Topham, J. S.
Hood, H. O.	Mowry, George W.	Vaux, Ethan P.
Hoover, John T.	Muldrum, J.	Walter, George H.
Houston, John H.	Nelson, C. C.	Ward, George C.
Howland, George W.	Niles, S. V.	Wheeler, Charles S.
Humes, J. S.	Noyes, H. O.	White, James W.
Humphrey, Josiah	Nutze, C. T.	Wight, G. M.
Ingle, John H.	Owen, Samuel W.	Wilcox, E. B.
Jewell, J. M.	Parker, Myron M.	Williamson, J. B.
Jochum, J. H.	Patten, George D., jr.	Wirt, W. W.
Johanson, H. P. T.	Peirce, J. H.	Wollard, Joseph F.
Johnson, William T.	Peyser, Jacob	Wurdemann, John V.
Kennedy, R. B.	Plant, George H., jr.	Wyvill, W. D.
Kerr, John		

Reinstated.

Boteler, J. W.	Mitchell, S. B. W.	Smith, J. G.
Collins, E. P.	Peirce, J. H.	Thompson, Thomas
Klotz, C.	Riley, Joseph S.	

Withdrawn.

Collins, E. P.	Menet, F.	Mitchell, S. B. W.
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Died.

Leonard, T. Jeff.

Dropped for N. P. D.

Armstrong, R. G.	Cole, H. V.	Stamp, M. R.
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WASHINGTON CHAPTER, No. 2.

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

R. A. FISH, M. E. H. Priest. W. H. EABLE, E. Scribe.
 G. B. CLARK, E. King. C. W. BARR, Secretary.
 ROBERT H. GRAHAM, Treasurer

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD, P. H. P. and P. G. H. Priest.
 H. GLASS, P. H. Priest and P. G. King.
 WM. MIDDLETON, P. H. Priest and P. G. Scribe.
 J. MOODY SMITH, P. H. Priest.
 A. T. LONGLEY, P. H. Priest.
 J. O. GOODRICH, P. H. Priest.

Royal Arch Masons.

Abbott, A. W.	Campbell, Richard	Dell, F. C.
Ackerman, M. L.	Campbell, T. B.	Delwig, L. A.
Allen, S. E.	Campbell, W. J.	Doughty, J. H.
Ashby, J. R.	Carpenter, L. Cass	Downman, R. W.
Atkins, E. H.	Chapman, H. N.	Earl, Charles
Alexander, C. M.	Chapman, Rev. W. H.	Earle, W. H.
Bailey, Robert.	Childs, A. F.	Ellis, H. C.
Baldwin, Edward	Clark, George B.	Elliot, J. J.
Ball, Robert.	Clark, George H.	Fish, Ros. A.
Barroll, F. H.	Cooper, Bishop	Frederic, John D.
Bartholow, J. P.	Corbin, E. Lyon	Fugitt, N. B.
Bassett, George T.	Cornelius, Rev. J. W.	Fuller, W. H.
Baxter, M. C.	Cowan, W. L.	Farron, George
Beekman, James	Cox, Joseph L.	Forbes, Darius
Belger, James	Craig, Andrew	Freeman, B.
Blackford, W. D.	Croggin, R. C.	Garrison, J. R.
Blakely, T. M.	Cropley, W. C.	Gedney, Joseph F.
Blout, I. L.	Crown, S. T.	Gibson, James P.
Bogan, S. W.	Cushaw, E. L.	Glover, T.
Bond, S. V.	Clark, Thomas A.	Goodrich, John O.
Bonell, Edward	Chapman, James J.	Graham, Robert H.
Boteler, H. D.	Darr, Charles W.	Graham, W. W.
Bowen, E. W.	Dawson, John B.	Green, H. M.
Browning, J. W.	De Ney, Vasco	Griffin, E. W. W.
Buckley, J. T.	Dyre, William W. T.	Guild, James
Burnett, D. L.	Davis, Eldred G.	Gunn, P. H.
Blakie, C.	Delano, M. F.	Gardner, Thomas I.

Goggin, R.	McElwee, James	Slater, S. E.
Gorman, A. P.	Meloy, S. H.	Smith, C. B.
Gradwohl, L.	Middleton, William	Smith, J. Moody
Grossmayer, N.	Mitchell, M. C.	Smith, John M.
Hable, S. L.	Moore, W. D.	Spencer, Frank A.
Hable, A.	Morgan, Richard	Stephenson, W. J.
Hayes, C. W.	Montgomery,	Sterling, W. J.
Higgins, H. A.	McIntosh, D.	Stock, J. G.
Hinds, George	Nalley, W. H.	Street, J. R.
Hirsch, Moses	Newton, A. Steve	Sullivan, J. J.
Holmead, J. E. F.	Noble, H. B.	Sykes, L.
Hudson, James	Norton, Frank A.	Tacey, Jefferson
Hughes, Evan	Nutt, G. W.	Taylor, A. S.
Huntoon, A. J.	Niles, Henry C.	Thompson, G. R.
Hamlin, J. P.	Orcutt, Warren H.	Thorn, Benjamin T.
Hanson, J. G.	O'Rear, W. H.	Tilley, Stephen
Hartz, Wilson T.	Olcott, Richard G.	Tolson, A.
Hennage, J. H.	Pearl, Marcus	Toomb, Robert
Henning, A.	Peterson, August	Trimble, M.
Hibbs, George D. C.	Phillips, A.	Tyssowski, J.
Howard, A. M.	Pierson, H. C.	Van Campen, S.
Hunt, Hiram L.	Pocock, Thomas	Vandenbaugh, J. V. W.
Hurst, James H.	Power, Richard	Varela, A. C.
James, Clement	Pearson, S. P.	Von Geiglengen, A.
Johnston, W. H.	Reed, Thomas M.	Voute, C. H.
Kaighn, M. M.	Reifsnyder, J. Henry	Von Fostner, S. F.
Kennedy, Thomas	Reigart, J. M.	Webster, J. R.
Kramer, L. J.	Robertson, J.	Wells, G. Wiley
Leamy, John	Rogers, George J.	Whitefoot, R. M.
Leavy, H.	Roose, W. S.	Whyte, Frederick
Logan, D. J.	Rowland, J. S. C.	Williamson, James
Longley, A. T.	Sears, C. A.	Winter, S. K.
Lynch, James	Sears, P. B.	Wolfe, A. B.
Mann, W. D.	Schleimer, D.	Walker, James T.
Marks, H. S.	Scudder, Rev. Joseph	Williams, J. Z.
Marks, S. A. H.	Sheriff, George L.	Young, George D.
Mason, J. M.	Sherman, Charles	Zerely, E. A.
McClermont, R.	Skerrett, W. H.	

Reinstated.

Harvey, F. L.	Niles, H. C.	Wood, H. Clay
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Withdrawn.

Boyden, George	Craig, F. J.	Gaddis, George H.
Brown, John	Dwinal, C. W.	Glass, A.
Cowan, W. L.	Foos, J. A.	Hogan, J.
Cross, jr., T. B.	Gaddis, William	Hocke, W. H.

Holroyd, J.	Stiles, V. N.	Weber, L. F. W.
Harvey, F. L.	Sommerville, T.	Wolter, W.
McKim, S. A. H.	Steele, J. M.	Wilkinson, W.
Porter, J. E.	Samuel, D.	Woods, A.
Riley, P. C.	Vermillion, J.	Wood, H. Clay.
Stewart, J. A.	Williams, E.	

MT. VERNON CHAPTER, No. 3.

Meets on the second and fourth Mondays in each month.

OFFICERS.

JOSEPH DANIELS, M.: E.: H.: Priest.	SAMUEL BAXTER, E.: Scribe.
JOHN W. GRIFFIN, E.: King.	WILLIAM H. FRY, Secretary.
NATHAN B. CLARKE, Treasurer.	

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

Charles W. Hancock, P.: H.: Priest and P.: G.: King.
Henry A. Whallon, P.: H.: Priest and P.: G.: King.
D. B. Searle, P.: H.: Priest.

Royal Arch Masons.

Alexander, C. L.	Currier, J. C.	Garwood, S. N.
Allen, J. C.	Daniels, Joseph	Gawler, Joseph
Anderson, W. S.	Daniels, F. G.	Gilbert, B. F.
Appel, Charles A.	Daniels, A. M.	Gillis, B. W.
Ashdown, W. W.	Daniels, R. G.	Glasscott, W. H.
Bache, Sharrington	Davy, J., jr.	Goepel, Paul
Barrows, S. M.	DeCaindry, William A.	Gray, E. H.
Bates, George A.	Dennison, Charles W.	Griffin, J. W.
Baxter, Samuel	Dawson, C.	Hancock, C. W.
Brown, P. B.	Dole, S. A.	Hay, W. J.
Burgdorf, L.	Doyle, J. A.	Helmus, William
Burns, B. F.	Driggs, George T.	Hesse, J. C.
Cameron, John	Eichler, W.	Heywood, George B.
Castle, D. E.	Eldridge, W. W.	Hoover, J. W.
Cate, A. B.	Evans, F. H.	Isham, L. D.
Clarke, N. B.	Farlee, W. A.	Jansen, J. C.
Clark, P. M.	Fenton, F. A.	Jaquette, I. G.
Clark, E. W., jr.	Firman, O. S.	Johnson, S. A.
Cluss, A.	Fowler, T. T.	Kimball, L. W.
Comstock, O. W.	Franz, C. F. L.	King, John I.
Cooper, J. S.	Fry, William H.	King, F.
Crutchley, W. F.	Gafney, Charles B.	Lacy, R. S.

La Fetra, G. H.	Pearson, P. W.	Tichenor, J. S.
Larmon, J. Q.	Pickell, J. H.	Tyler, W. C.
Littlewood, J. B.	Pinney, George M.	Wallace, R. B.
Loweree, G. E.	Philp, F.	Walker, Cyrus
Machir, Joseph S.	Pratt, George W.	Walsh, M. H.
Marshall, F. M.	Randall, A. F.	Walton, W. H.
Metcalf, F. S.	Sanders, L. M.	Washburn, H. S.
McGown, George	Searle, D. B.	Whallon, H. A.
Montgomery, R. H.	Searle, H. R.	White, H. A.
Morris, E. L.	Schreiber, William	Whittington, George W.
Nordstrom, C. E.	Sherwood, H. L.	Wilson, J. C.
O'Connor, D. J.	Stevens, C. C.	Wilson, L. A.
Page, Charles	Stuyvesant, G. W.	Wyman, C. T.
Partello, D. J.	Sweet, William E.	Yates, William A.
Partello, W. P.	Sylvester, J. H.	Yates, James
Partridge, George W.	Terry, S. A.	Young, G. I.
Patten, C. L.	Thompson, M.	
Patterson, James	Thorn, S. N.	

Reinstated.

Buck, L. A.	Evans, F. H.	Lacey, R. S.
Bunce, J. R.	Gillis, B. W.	

Withdrawn.

Allen, E. K.	Lee, J. G. C.	Schurz, A. P.
Buck, L. A.	Love, R. H.	Shelton, C. W.
Bunce, J. R.	Meding, C. W.	Shelton, R. H.
Davis, B. F.	McClellan, J. O.	Steele, James
Duren, J. A.	Nicholay, J. H.	Tolman, L. W.
Keasby, J. B.	Russell, S. B.	Wright, Allen

Died.

Fisher, H. L.	Patterson, J. J.	Riley, James
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Dropped for N. P. D.

Brown, William J.	Francis, G. W.	Porter, G. L.
Catlin, C. L.	Merrill, M. L.	Shepherd, Charles T.
Chase, F. W.	Milburn, W. L.	Sleeper, S. A.
Copeland, William P.	Moore, M. M.	Whitman, George A.
Dorrance, O. H.	Pike, Benjamin S.	

EUREKA CHAPTER, No. 4.

Meets on the second and fourth Fridays in each month.

OFFICERS.

I. L. JOHNSON, M. E. H. Priest.

W. P. YOUNG, E. Scribe.

ANTHONY BUCHLY, E. King.

S. JOHN TOMPSON, Secretary.

WILLIAM H. GOODS, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Grand Officers.

Chauncey Smith, P. H. Priest and Grand Treasurer.

E. B. MacGrotty, P. H. Priest and Grand Scribe.

Royal Arch Masons.

Abrams, A.	Gettinger, B. F.	Myers, W. C.
Amiss, T. B.	Gill, S. F.	Pearsons, J. P.
Anderson, W. A.	Goods, W. H.	Pinkney, D. D., W.
Barker, William P.	Greer, C. E.	Poindexter, W. M.
Bartlett, J. D.	Hadaway, C.	Proctor, T.
Been, H.	Harmon, C. P.	Reynolds, C. W.
Gassenheimer, L.	Harris, R. L.	Ridenour, U. H.
Bell, W. P.	Harrison, W. H.	Schafhirt, F. H.
Benjamin, C. F.	Hibbs, E. T.	Schley, E. S.
Bordman, E. K.	Holmes, E. S.	Short, W. A.
Boyd, W. H.	Howard, J. W.	Siegel, M.
Brenizer, J. L.	Humphrey, R. T.	Seip, R. C.
Brereton, W. H.	Hunter, G. M.	Slater, J.
Bright, J. G.	Johnson, W. H.	Smith, C.
Bruni, C.	Johnson, J. L.	Smith, F. H.
Buchly, A.	Johnson, A. E. H.	Spencer, H. C.
Butt, W. B.	Kaufman, L.	Spengler, T.
Butts, A. B.	Kettler, L.	Stone, W. C.
Craig, P. S.	Keyworth, J.	Swany, C. M.
Crosby, H. T.	Knox, J.	Thomson, S. J.
Crump, J. E.	Kromberger, W.	Trimble, J. H.
Curtis, W.	Lein, H. B.	Tudor, W. V.
Davis, J. G.	Low, J. E.	Vale, J. M.
Davis, J.	MacGrotty, E. B.	Viven, J. L.
Dearing, G. T.	Martin, J. E.	Wall, J. C.
Draper, N. C.	McLeary, E. L.	Wheeler, E. G.
Draper, A. H.	Mitchell, T.	Wilson, D.
Ebbinghaus, J. W.	Montgomery, J. H.	Wilson, P. R.
Fearson, C. D.	Morsell, S. T. G.	Winnemore, J. J.
Fowler, C. H.	Mueller, G. J.	Yager, J. H.
Franzoni, C. W.	Munson, H. T.	Young, W. P.
Gassenheimer, L.		

LAFAYETTE CHAPTER, No. 5.

Meets on the first and third Saturdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

DANIEL S. JONES, M.: E.: H.: Priest. EDWARD H. FULLER, E.: Scribe.
 CHARLES E. COON, E.: King. JOHN EDWIN MASON, Secretary.
 N. P. CHIPMAN, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

N. P. CHIPMAN, P.: H.: Priest.
 NOBLE D. LARNER, P.: H.: Priest and Grand Secretary.

Royal Arch Masons.

Adams, J. Lee	Fitch, George A.	Patterson, DeWitt Clinton
Arnold, Walter J.	Fitzki, Edward	Patterson, J. Scott
Baar, Lewis	French, Benjamin F.	Perley, James P.
Baker, Henry M.	Fuller, Edward H.	Pierce, Daniel T.
Ballock, George W.	Gage, Norris L.	Ray, Herbert H.
Barnes, James J.	Gamba, George	Rider, William L.
Barr, Henry D.	Glenn, John W.	Robertson, Samuel P.
Barr, Thomas F.	Gillham, Robert	Sharman, Rev. Wm.
Barry, Wm. M.	Gilmore, Charles D.	Shepherd, Thomas M.
Bates, Stephen	Greer, John R.	Simms, John W.
Beam, Henry D.	Griffith, Fleming R.	Singleton, William R.
Bender, Joseph T.	Grinnell, James S.	Sinsabaugh, David
Bentley, Alexander J.	Hale, Edw. Warren	Small, William
Betz, Louis	Heald, Issachar A.	Smith, Andrew C.
Blue, David S.	Heller, Simon	Smith, J. Dempster
Brewster, Henry A.	Howe, Edward S.	Sniffen, Culver C.
Bridges, Edwin T.	Howell, Myron E. N.	Spear, Charles W.
Booraem, Edgar I.	Jones, D. Spaulding	Staley, John H.
Bunker, George W.	Knox, John J.	Stanton, Irving W.
Burnham, D. S.	Larner, Noble D.	Steele, Thomas J.
Chipman, Norton P.	Libbey, Israel P.	Stockbridge, Virgil D.
Clements, John T.	Linville, George W.	Stoek, Jacob F.
Coon, Charles E.	Martin, Luther	Strachan, Samuel S.
Coddge, Chas. B. R.	Mason, John Edwin	Thompson, John Barker
Cramer, Joseph B.	McConnell, James C.	Tileston, William M.
Creedy, C. Eaton,	McCoy, Joseph S.	Towles, Henry Orme
Dickinson, George T.	McKeever, Samuel	Transue, Absalom
Dixon, John H.	McLean, Harry Clay	Upton, J. Kendrick
Duncan, Samuel A.	Moore William G.	Wannall, Charles P.
Duren, John A.	Moulton, Charles H.	Warren, Charles
Eaton, Walter S.	Owen, Fred Wooster	Waugh, James E.

Weirick, Jesse H.	Whitney, William H.	Witherow, James M.
Welcker, Peter D.	Wilkins, Charles A.	Wolf, Simon
Wheeler, Henry W.	Will, Joseph B.	Wright, William

Withdrawn.

Morgan, Converse G.

Died.

Webb, Robert W.

WASHINGTON NAVAL CHAPTER, NO. 6.

*Meets on the first and third Tuesdays in each month.***OFFICERS.**

ANDREW GLASS, M. E. H. Priest.	JOSEPH E. PORTER, E. Scribe.
JOHN A. FOOS, E. King.	GEORGE W. WELLS, Secretary
THOMAS SOMMERVILLE, Treasurer.	

Past High Priest and Past Grand Officer.

Andrew Glass, P. H. Priest and P. Grand King.

Royal Arch Masons.

Anderson, Robert	Graham, John	Sommerville, Thomas
Browning, H.	Gaddiss, Adam	Skidmore, George W.
Brown, John	Gaddis, William H.	Stewart, Thomas
Bailey, William H.	Hogan, John	Thompson, Thomas
Cross, T. B., jr.	Hoeck, William	Vermillion, James
Cowan, William L.	Holroyel, John	Williams, E.
Cooper, William A.	Hancock, Andrew	Wilkinson, William
Chase, Isaac McKim	McKim, A. H.	Weber, Louis F. W.
Farrish, William F.	Martin, D. W.	Wheeler, Charles
Foos, John A.	O'Connell, Robert	Walter, William
Gaddis, William	Porter, Joseph E.	Woods, Andrew
Gaddis, George H.	Patton, D. H.	Wells, George W.
Glass, Andrew	Steel, John M.	Wells, Joseph M.
Goodall, George W.		

POTOMAC CHAPTER, No. 8, (GEORGETOWN, D. C.)

Meeting at Masonic Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of each month

OFFICERS.

W. MORRIS SMITH, M.: E.: H.: Priest.	R. L. CROPLEY, Treasurer.
W. H. FAULKNER, E.: King.	WILLIAM W. WHEELER, Secretary.
THOMAS DOWLING, E.: Scribe.	R. R. SHEKELL, Janitor.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

James Goszler, P.: G.: H.: P.:
 James King, P.: D.: G.: H.: P.:
 James G. Smith, P.: G.: H.: P.:
 W. Morris Smith, P.: D.: G.: H.: P.:

Royal Arch Masons.

Alvord, H. J.	Heiston, J. C.	Phillips, J. H.
Beall, John J.	Hoffman, William	Rinehart, George
Beall, George W.	Houghton, A. O.	Robinson, J. D.
Berry, John S.	Hood, John H.	Roche, Alexander
Birch, William H.	Hedrick, B. S.	Rhorer, William H.
Bootes, Samuel	Hardy, R. W.	Rhor, Henry
Ball, James H.	Helen, Joseph	Schloss, Jacob A.
Blundon, Joseph A.	Johnson, Thomas	Shekell, R. R.
Choppin, William	Jones, A. Jackson	Shekell, E. A.
Cropley, R. L.	Kaiser, John	Shekell, C. F.
Cruickshanks, John	King, George W.	Shekell, A. B.
Campbell, R. T.	King, James	Strauss, Henry
Davidson, John B.	Laird, William, jr.	Shinn, R. A.
Dodge, A. H.	Libbey, Joseph	Sothoron, George M.
Dowling, Thomas	Lumsdon, John W.	Stackpole, Thomas
Dickson, Henry	Lawrence, D. C.	Stork, F. W.
Denty, J. W.	Lawrence, James V.	Sweeney, H. M.
Edmonson, C. T.	Lambright, George C.	Shuman, D. R.
English, C. S.	Magruder, Dr. H.	Smith, W. Morris
Edmonson, R. A.	Moore, John	Smith, James G.
Faulkner, William H.	Noyes, H. C.	Taylor, W. H. S.
Goszler, James	Owens, John L.	Turton, John B.
Goszler, J. Mason	Parker, John C.	Waters, George
Graves, John B.	Patterson, Edgar	Wheeler, W. W.
Grimes, B. F.	Pickerell, A. H.	Wheatly, W. T.
Hartley, E. D.	Primrose, S. F.	

STATEMENT,

Showing the numerical condition of the several Chapters in the jurisdiction, with the work of the past year and amounts due and paid by each to the Grand Chapter at the Annual Convocation, November, 1899.

Name and No. of Chapter.	No. of members per last return.	Add.			Total.	Deduct.					Present No. of members.	Rejected.	Amount paid by the several Chapters to the Grand Chapter.
		Exalted since.	Affiliated.	Reinstated.		Withdrawn.	Died.	Dropped.	Suspended.	Expelled.			
Columbia.....No. 1	128	19	.....	8	155	3	1	3	.....	.....	148	.....	\$121 50
Washington.....No. 2	205	16	.....	3	224	29	.....	.....	.....	.....	195	1	137 50
Mount Vernon.....No. 3	122	24	2	5	153	18	3	14	.....	.....	118	1	119 50
Eureka.....No. 4	60	33	.....	.....	93	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93	1	122 50
La Fayette.....No. 5	68	34	2	.....	104	1	1	.....	.....	.....	102	.....	133 00
Washington Naval.....No. 6	*28	12	.....	.....	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	1	50 00
Potomac.....No. 8	*77	.....	.....	.....	77	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	77	.....	.....

* Charter members.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be permitted, under the charters to be issued to them, to confer the Council degrees therein, and that said degrees shall not, in any manner, be connected with the Chapters.—*May 24, 1867.*

Resolved, That no Chapter of R.: A.: Masons can legally assemble within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, under a dispensation, charter, or any other instrument of writing emanating from any Masonic power other than this Grand Chapter, and all Masonic communication as R.: A.: Masons is strictly forbidden between any Chapters within this jurisdiction, and such illegal Chapter, and any member or members thereof, under the penalty of expulsion.—*June 12, 1867.*

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, the Order of Priesthood should be under the exclusive control of P.: H.: Priests and H.: Priests who have attained to that degree.—*November 9, 1868.*

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter, in order to establish a more intimate and fraternal intercourse between the Royal Arch Chapters of the world, do hereby adopt the system of representation by Masonic Grand bodies, by the appointment of representatives at or near the Grand Easts of sister Grand Royal Arch Chapters, and by a cordial recognition of such worthy Companions as may be appointed within this Royal Arch jurisdiction to represent other Grand Royal Arch Chapters here. And the Grand High Priest is hereby authorized to issue commissions under his hand and the seal of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter to such worthy Companions in other Royal Arch jurisdictions as he may deem proper.—*May 10, 1869.*

Resolved, That hereafter a petition for a charter for a new Chapter shall not be considered by the Grand Chapter until the Grand Secretary shall be satisfied that the petitioners for the charter have paid all indebtedness to the Chapters to which they belong.—*May 31, 1869.*

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter disapproves the use of substitutes in conferring any of the degrees of Capitular Masonry, and hereby prohibits its practice in this jurisdiction.—*November 8, 1869.*





PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND R. A. CHAPTER
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
— FOR THE YEAR 1870.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.



WASHINGTON:
JOSEPH L. PEARSON, PRINTER,
Corner of 9th and D. sts.
1870.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND R.: A.: CHAPTER
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
FOR THE YEAR 1870.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.



WASHINGTON:
JOSEPH L. PEARSON, PRINTER,
Corner of 9th and D sts.
1870.

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, May 9, 1870.

The Semi-annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at the Masonic Temple, at 8 o'clock p. m.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	B. B. FRENCH.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" "	J. DANIELS.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
" "	E. B. MACGROTTY.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" "	C. SMITH	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E. "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	A. HOLMEAD.....	<i>Rev. Grand Chaplain.</i>
" "	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
" "	J. ED. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sejourner.</i>
" "	J. W. GRIFFIN	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	R. A. FISH.....	<i>Grand M. of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand M. of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	G. B. CLARK.....	<i>as Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>
" "	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priest, J. G. Smith.

Past Deputy Grand High Priests, L. G. Stephens, W. M. Smith.

Past Grand King, C. W. Hancock.

Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8; and

Past High Priests from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

On motion of the Grand Secretary, the reading of the proceedings of previous Convocations was dispensed with, they having been printed and placed in the hands of the members of the Grand Chapter.

Comp. Mason, from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted a report in relation to the formation of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, accompanied with the following resolution, which was received and the resolution adopted :

Whereas a Grand R. A. Chapter for the Province of Nova Scotia has been formed, and, from a careful examination of the steps taken to secure its formation, this Grand Chapter is satisfied that it has complied with all the requirements usual in such cases; therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia hereby recognizes the Grand R. A. Chapter of Nova Scotia, and extends to her the warmest fraternal regards, with the Royal Arch greeting and right hand of fellowship.

Comp. Griffin submitted the following amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, which was laid over for consideration at the Annual Convocation :

Amend article 1 of section 2 to read as follows : There shall be two Stated Convocations of this Grand Chapter in each year, viz : the Annual on the second Tuesday in November, and the Semi-annual on the second Tuesday in May, which convocations shall be held in the City of Washington ; the Annual at 7 o'clock, and the Semi-annual at 7½ o'clock p. m.

Comp. Hancock, Grand Visitor and Lecturer, submitted a report in relation to the working of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, and complained of the action of the High Priest of said Chapter in refusing to conform the work of his Chapter to the work as laid down by the Grand Chapter.

Comp. W. M. Smith, High Priest of Potomac Chapter, made a statement to the Grand Chapter explaining his reasons for not conforming the work of his Chapter to that adopted by the Grand Chapter and promulgated by the Grand Vis. and Lecturer, whereupon, on motion of Comp. Grand Secretary, it was voted that the High Priest of Potomac Chapter No. 8 be, and he is hereby, ordered to conform the work of his Chapter to the work as adopted by the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 12, 1870.

A Special Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at 8½ o'clock p. m.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	JOHN LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	CHAS. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>as Grand King.</i>
" "	JOSEPH T. BROWN.....	<i>as Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	SAMUEL BAXTER.....	<i>as Grand Secretary.</i>
E. "	ABNER T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	W. H. EARLE.....	<i>as Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	CHAS. L. PATTEN.....	<i>as Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	ROS. A. FISH.....	<i>Grand M. of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand M. of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	GEO. D. PATTEN, JR.....	<i>as Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>
" "	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

And Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

The Grand High Priest stated that he had called the Grand Chapter together for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for attending the funeral of our late M. E. Comp. B. B. French, Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter, who departed this life this morning at one o'clock.

On motion of Comp. Hancock, a committee, consisting of Comps. L. G. Stephens, D. S. Jones, and R. A. Fish, was appointed to make all necessary arrangements, in conjunction with similar committees from the other Masonic bodies of which the deceased was a member.

On motion of Comp. J. T. Brown, an invitation was extended to all R. A. Masons in good standing to unite with the Grand Chapter in attending the funeral.

On motion of Comp. J. T. Brown, a committee, consisting of Comps. J. T. Brown, A. T. Longley, and Ros. A. Fish, was appointed to prepare suitable resolutions, in respect to the memory of our deceased Companion.

On motion of Comp. Jones, Companion Joseph T. Brown was requested to prepare an eulogy on our deceased Companion, B.

B. French, to be delivered before this Grand Chapter at such time as may suit his convenience.

The Grand Chapter was then called to a Resumed Convocation on Sunday, August 14th, at 3 o'clock p. m.

SAMUEL BAXTER,
Grand Secretary pro tem.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 14th, 1870.

Resumed Convocation of the Grand Chapter of R. A. M. of the District of Columbia, held at Masonic Temple.

Labor resumed at 3.45 p. m.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	JOHN LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	J. ROLAND.....	<i>as Grand King.</i>
" "	L. D. ISHAM.....	<i>as Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	CHAUNCEY SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
" "	CHAS. E. COON.....	<i>as Grand Secretary.</i>
E. "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	P. S. CRAIG.....	<i>as Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	J. P. PEARSON.....	<i>as Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	J. C. ALLEN.....	<i>as Grand M. of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	GEO. COWIE.....	<i>as Grand M. of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	W. W. T. DYRE.....	<i>as Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>
" "	L. STODDARD, JR.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Representatives from all of the Chapters.

And a very large number of Companions.

The Grand Chapter was then formed in procession, and, in company with the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and other Masonic bodies, proceeded to the Four-and-a-half-street Presbyterian Church, where the funeral services of the late M. E. Comp. Benjamin Brown French, Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter, were performed.

After uniting in the ceremonies at the grave, the Grand Chapter returned to the Temple and closed in ample form.

CHARLES E. COON,
Grand Secretary pro tem.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION,

WASHINGTON, September 29, 1870.

The Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia met in Special Convocation in the Masonic Temple, at 7½ o'clock p. m., and was opened in ample form.

PRESENT :

M.: E.: Comp. J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R.: E.: Comp. J. DANIELS.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
" " E. B. MacGROTTY.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" " N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" " C. SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E.: " A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of Hosts.</i>
" " C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
" " J. ED. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" " J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand R.: A.: Captain.</i>
" " C. E. COON.....	<i>as Grand M.: of 3d Vail.</i>
" " D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand M.: of 2d Vail.</i>
" " E. FITZKI.....	<i>as Grand M.: of 1st Vail.</i>
Comp. L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Junitor.</i>

M.: E.: Comp. A. G. Mackey, of S. Carolina, P.: G.: G.: H.: Priest.

R.: E.: Comp. L. G. Stephens, P.: D.: Grand High Priest.

Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; and

Past High Priests from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

The M.: E.: Grand High Priest announced that he had convened the Grand Chapter in Special Convocation for the purpose of listening to an eulogy on the life and character of our late M.: E.: Grand High Priest, Comp. B. B. French, by Comp. Joseph T. Brown, which he had prepared in compliance with the request made by the Grand Chapter at a Special Convocation held August 12, 1870.

Comp. Brown, having been introduced, spoke as follows:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions :

Duty is a necessity of existence. It is imperative as destiny, and accompanies us through all the paths of life. It is a tyrannical despot imposing condign, swift, and inevitable punishment upon all those who neglect or disobey its edicts, but a merciful sovereign rewarding with the repose of a peaceful conscience those who heed its laws.

The mandates of duty are many, but there is none more solemn and binding than that of assembling ourselves together to mourn the loss of the good and great, to record their merits and celebrate their virtues, and from the lesson of their noble lives to learn to emulate their example, and so to live

that when we too are summoned to pass over the dark and bitter river, our memory may rise as grateful incense all along our pathway through the world.

This duty has existed and has been observed from time immemorial, and all down the column of history we find inscribed the deeds of those who, casting from their shoulders the heavy and impenetrable mantle of self-love, have devoted themselves to the great interests of humanity, and have lived not unto themselves, but that man might be better, nobler, and purer by reason of their efforts. To the brotherhood of the initiates this is a peculiar and sacred duty. It is within the veils of their sanctuary that man throws aside the trappings and cold-heartedness of an unfeeling world and stands erect, as God hath made him, a *man*, the image of his Maker, with a heart flowing with love toward his brother, and a soul elevated by the study of the symbolism of the great book of nature to the adoration of its Grand Architect.

Joined by such ties of fraternity, it is meet that when one link of the chain of brotherhood which binds us together below is severed and removed to form a new and golden link in that sacred chain which binds us near to heaven and draws us closer to its shores, that we should meet in solemn convocation to acknowledge the loving hand of our Supreme High Priest, who, in His inscrutable wisdom, has seen fit to elect one of our number to higher duties within the holy of holies above; to meditate on the brevity of our days, which though lengthened, like those of our deceased Companion, to three score years and ten, are still but a span, a hand's breadth, for they "pass away as a tale that is told," and all our toils and labors, our wranglings and trials, our loves and our fears, our joys and our sorrows, the thousand burdens that bear down and oppress our spirits, and the many budding hopes that save us from despair will soon be numbered with the past and appear but as an atom in the sunshine of the morning of eternity, which, when countless ages shall be past, will be but just begun.

The shades of evening now surround us, and night has drawn her sable mantle over the face of nature; the busy world stands still, and the sound of its bustle and clamor has faded with the life-giving rays of the "God of Day." Within a few short hours those who now keep watch will rest from their labors in the arms of death's counterpart—sleep, and silence, darkness, and temporary death will rest like a pall over the surface of the material world.

Companions, thus it is with us. Within a very short space of time we have seen a bright light fade from our midst to sink away amid the clouds of the west. Our labors are for a time paralyzed, our Temple is in confusion, our working tools are draped in the sombre colors of the grave, and the cold damp of sorrow hangs heavy upon our Lodge.

But though the cheering light of the sun's rays has faded in the occident, still the loving hand of our Father has sprinkled the shroud of night with myriads of golden stars, and the lessons of nature's revelation teach us that when any one of these bright indicators of God's beneficent providence shall have traversed from east to west the dark vault above us, the rosy tints of the morning will again adorn the orient, and the sun will arise anew in bright effulgence from temporary death to gladden with its beneficent rays an awakening world.

So, by faith in the bright lights of revelation scattered by the hand of Deity over the pages of the written law, by the disclosures of the great volume of nature, and by the teachings of the traditions of the mysteries of the initiates, we know that though our brother has passed from us for a season, when the fulness of time shall come he shall be "changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," and his body which we have so recently "sown in corruption shall be raised in glory," freed from the imperfections of decaying mortality and glorified in the perfect image of his Creator. As for his soul, though his body sleeps, it is not there. "He is not dead but liveth, and has returned to God his Father."

The history of our departed Companion is the story of a good man's path through the world; a life of labor and of love; a stream of usefulness welling up from the fountain of his infancy, and increasing, broadening, and deepening until the close of his well-spent existence; a bright cheerful river gladdening the hearts of thousands on its either side, and distributing with a generous hand countless blessings all along its course.

For many of the facts in the following brief sketch of his life I am indebted to a short autobiographic resume prepared by our beloved Companion a few years previous to his decease, and for many others to a long and intimate personal acquaintance, in the course of which I learned to love, admire, and esteem him whose place in our midst will long remain vacant.

Benjamin Brown French, who departed of this life on the 12th day of August, 1870, was born at Chester, in the State of New Hampshire, on the 4th day of September, 1800.

He was the son of Hon. Daniel French, an eminent lawyer of that State, and for many years its Attorney General. His mother's maiden name was Mercy Brown, the daughter of a prominent merchant of Chester.

His ancestors on both sides of his family were among the oldest and most respectable of the early settlers of New England, and doubtless the influence of that spirit which induced men to brave the perils of a bleak and desolate wilderness for the sake of liberty of conscience and freedom to worship God had much effect in shaping his course through life, rendering him an earnest aspirant at the shrine of Truth, and a devoted soldier in the cause of justice and humanity.

He was the only son of his mother, and was deprived at an early age of her tender care, she dying when he was but eighteen months old.

He received a good common-school and academic education, which was completed at North Yarmouth Academy, Maine, when he was about seventeen years of age. His father and relatives were anxious that he should enjoy the advantages of a collegiate course with a view to a professional career, but his inclination tending to a more active life, he declined doing so, and in 1819 went to Boston with the intention of going to sea. Disappointed, however, in obtaining in the merchant service such a position as he desired, and unwilling again to return to dependence upon his father, he enlisted as a private in the United States army, and was stationed at Fort Warren, in Boston harbor, with a detachment of the 8th regiment of infantry. He was soon after promoted to the rank of sergeant, and served faithfully for about four months,

when, at the earnest solicitation of his friends, who provided a substitute, he was discharged from the service on the 12th of September, 1819.

He then returned to his native town and commenced in his father's office the study of law, which he diligently and faithfully pursued for five years, at the expiration of which time he was admitted to practice as a member of the Rockingham bar.

In the month of March, 1825, he removed to Hookset, in the county of Merrimack, N. H., and immediately entered upon a full and promising practice, and with his energy, industry, and general intelligence, there is no doubt that had he continued in the profession (which he often told me was distasteful to him) he would have occupied a prominent and distinguished position among the great legal minds of our day.

Immediately upon the commencement of his practice he was married to Miss Elizabeth Smith Richardson, daughter of Hon. W. M. Richardson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, a lady well remembered by many who hear me now, and esteemed for her many accomplishments, her natural goodness of heart, her bounteous hand, and her noble character as woman, wife, and mother. She was his true and loving help-mate, his kind adviser and counsellor, the sympathizing sharer of his joys and sorrows, beloved by all who knew her, and the most lamented by those who knew her best. She was called to a higher sphere of labor in May, 1861.

Shortly after his marriage, Companion French removed to Sutton, and in 1827, to Newport, N. H. About this time he was elected assistant clerk of the New Hampshire Senate, which position he held until 1830.

He was also, during his residence in Newport, one of the editors and proprietors of the New Hampshire Spectator, and ably represented that town in the State Legislature in the years 1831, 1832, and 1833.

In December, 1833, he received the appointment of Assistant Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and removed to this city, where he has resided ever since.

He subsequently held the position of Chief Clerk of the House, under Mr. Garland and Col. McNulty, and on the 18th of January, 1845, was elected Clerk of the House, which office he held until 1847, when he was defeated by a single vote.

Having been elected, a few months previously, as President of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, (the first telegraph company ever formed,) he, for the next few years devoted himself exclusively to its interests, and it is largely owing to his energy, enterprise, and business tact, that this wonderful invention was raised from infancy to full manhood, and has spread itself across the face of the whole earth, across the towering mountains and under the swelling billows, bearing the whispers of man to man for thousands and thousands of miles.

In fact, I may say, that the birth of this mighty enterprise is to a great extent due to his active labors in its behalf. In a conversation, only a few days before his death, I incidentally remarked his connection with the infancy of Professor Morse's great invention, and he then related the manner in which the enterprise was first inaugurated.

He said that while the bill was pending in the House—he being Assistant Clerk at the time—his efforts in its behalf were earnestly solicited by Professor Morse and his friends. He examined carefully into the merits of the scheme, and

became convinced of its feasibility and utility. But how to get it through the House was the question. Congress was then suffering with one of its periodical attacks of economy, the days of the session were drawing to a close, business was pressing, and the members almost universally regarded the enterprise as chimerical.

Brother French, however, moved by the anxiety of Professor Morse, determined to undertake this almost hopeless task. He approached the members but could find no favor from them. Finally he laid the matter before the Speaker, and told him the bill must pass. "Surely, Mr. French, you do not believe in such chimerical nonsense," was the response. "Surely I do," was the reply, "and you and I will live to see these lines stretching all over the world. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, we *must* put this bill through." "Well," said the Speaker, "I don't believe in it, but to do you a favor, we will try. You, as assistant clerk, have charge of the table. I will call on you to-day for miscellaneous and unimportant bills, and in a moment of confusion, when the members have become accustomed to voting 'aye,' you slip in this, only don't call the title too loud, and I will try to put it through without observation."

The ruse was successful. The bill was strategically introduced in a moment of extreme confusion and passed by an almost unanimous vote. Thus, by the efforts of one true man, of a vision a little more extensive than ordinary, was an enterprise inaugurated, compelling the lightnings of heaven to the service of man, destined with its silent voice to control the destinies of nations, to raise up and destroy empires, to carry messages of woe to the afflicted, and tidings of glad joy to the rejoicing.

But I must return to the continuation of my sketch of Companion French's life.

When his intimate friend, Gen. Pierce, was elected President of the United States, he was by him appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings. He resigned this position in 1855, and returned to the duties of his profession.

In 1861, he was again appointed to the same office by President Lincoln, and he faithfully and acceptably discharged the duties of the same until it was abolished by Congress, on the 2d of March, 1867.

In September, 1862, he was married to Miss Mary Ellen Brady, of Washington, a lady who is so well and favorably known to the most of you, that it is unnecessary for me to add even one feeble word of praise. Her works are her encomium, and the suffering, the desolate, and the afflicted around us can speak in graphic tones of the kindness of her heart and the liberality of her hand.

Brother French has from time to time held many places of honor and trust in our midst, and was for many years President of our Boards of Aldermen and Common Council respectively. In every position in which he stood forth as the servant of the people, honesty and truth have marked his ways, and his duties have ever been discharged conscientiously, energetically, intelligently, and acceptably.

In closing this brief sketch of his public life it may be well to mention a little incident which only a few days since came to my knowledge, but which strongly illustrates his keen sense of the right and the sacrifice of his personal feelings to the cause of justice and of law.

At the time of the breaking out of the John Brown raid Major French was

President of the Republican Club of this city, a time when it was far more difficult to be a Republican than now, and though his feelings were all in sympathy with the object which John Brown endeavored illegally to effect, (for he was ever an earnest advocate for the emancipation of the slave,) still he was the first, and, so far as I know, the only private citizen of Washington who volunteered to the President to raise a body of citizens and march to Harper's Ferry to enforce and establish the authority and dignity of the Government.

As the Government had ample military force at command the offer was declined, but the proposal shows the character of the man.

Thus have we seen the true man and the faithful public servant. But there was another phase of his life concealed by the veils of our sanctuaries from the vulgar gaze of the profane; an inner history of usefulness, energy, and honor; a course in which he deserved and received the highest laurels, the priceless tributes of the regard and esteem of his brethren—more to be valued than the withering crowns of the political arena, which fade away with a breath; ever-enduring memorials to true merit, and the rewards of a lifetime well spent in the service of that which is just, noble, and true; the recognition by the fraternity of initiates of a burning zeal in the cause of universal brotherhood and common humanity.

A life not emblazoned upon glittering tablets, nor indented in ever-enduring letters upon the adamantine granite, but the record of which is preserved in the hearts of the widow and orphan, of the fallen who have been rescued from the slough of their debasement and their feet set anew upon the firm and beaten track of rectitude, of the young man starting in the surging race of life, and in the tears of gratitude of those whose light is fading in the western shades.

A record, written not upon the evanescent materials of a changing world, but inscribed in letters of living light upon the volumes of eternal truth. Proud is his record here below, but prouder still stands his name upon the Book of Life, written by the recording angel in letters of ineffable glory, as "one who loved his fellow-men."

Companion French informs us, in the autobiography to which I have before alluded, that his first impression of the benefits and true grandeur of Freemasonry was occasioned by his attendance upon a Masonic funeral at the early age of fifteen years.

In witnessing the solemn ceremonial of the last sad services of our Order, and the kind attention of the brethren to the bereaved family of the deceased, he became convinced of the beauty of our Mystic Temple and determined to knock at its portals for admission as soon as he should have reached the constitutional age.

There being no Lodge at his native town he was unable to carry his intention into effect until after his removal to Sutton. He then, in the autumn of 1825, made application to King Solomon's Lodge, No. 14, which was located at New London, about four miles from Brother French's residence. His request received a favorable consideration, and during the succeeding winter he was regularly initiated, passed, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

He immediately applied himself with his habitual energy and enthusiasm to

the work and lectures of the blue degrees, and soon acquired a thorough knowledge of their sublime principles and tenets.

In September, 1827, he removed to Newport and there affiliated with Corinthian Lodge, No. 28. In 1828 he was elected Senior Warden of that Lodge, and in 1830 its Worshipful Master.

His membership in the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was marked by ability and intelligence, and the conscientious discharge of every duty committed to his trust. In 1830 he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, and in 1832 its Grand Marshal, both of which positions, as well as the Orient of Corinthian Lodge, he held at the time of his removal to Washington in 1833.

At that time the anti-masonic excitement, which spread like a tornado over our land, was already assuming formidable proportions, and it is believed that Corinthian Lodge was never again opened after the removal of Brother French from the jurisdiction.

In conversation with Brother French he often related interesting reminiscences of these old New Hampshire Lodges, and their memory lingered pleasantly with him until the last.

Their hours of labor differed somewhat from ours. As many members of the Lodges resided far away from the places where they were held, it was customary for them to assemble early in the forenoon, confer the first degree, and then call from labor for refreshment, (and refreshment, in those good old days, suggested a far more important business than it does now.) They resumed labor in the afternoon, conferred the second and third degrees, and were again turned over to the charge of the Junior Warden before separating.

I often think that when men came miles and miles to confer and receive the orders of Masonry, and when they devoted a whole day, instead of a spare evening, to its interests, there was far more importance attached to the institution than at the present day.

Upon Brother French's arrival in this city he found Masonry nearly dormant in consequence of the bitter opposition it received from every quarter of the land; and although he frequented the meetings of our Lodges and Grand Lodge, he did not affiliate until the organization of National Lodge, No. 12, in 1846.

On November 3d of the same year he was elected Grand Master of Masons for the District of Columbia, a position the duties of which he discharged with fidelity and marked ability and success until 1853, when he declined a re-election.

On the 5th day of November, 1846, Companion French was exalted, in Columbia Chapter, No. 15, of the City of Washington, to the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason, and in 1847 was elected its Most Excellent High Priest. During the same year he was elected Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia. In November, 1848, he was elected Deputy Grand High Priest, and in 1850 Grand High Priest, to which latter office he was annually re-elected until November, 1855, when he positively declined a re-election.

On the 8th day of April, 1847, Companion French received the Order of the Temple at the hands of DeWitt Clinton Encampment, Brooklyn, N. Y. There

being at that time no encampment of Knights Templar in this vicinity, he visited the above-mentioned city for the express purpose of receiving the Commandery degrees, with a view to resuscitating the Order of the Temple in Washington.

Washington Commandery, No. 1, of this city, was chartered on the 14th day of January, 1825, but its meetings had been suspended for several years, and the organization was in a dormant state.

On the 24th day of April, 1847, after collecting around him a number of the old members of the Commandery, he succeeded in reviving its organization, and was elected its Eminent Commander, in which position he continued, with the exception of a single year, for twelve consecutive years.

Washington Commandery was always a favorite Masonic body with him; perhaps the one around which his personal affections most closely entwined. He reported at its asylum as often as his multitudinous duties would permit, and even at his death kindly remembered it in the distribution of his Masonic treasures.

In 1850 he was elected Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, and also General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, both of which offices he sustained with ability until 1859, when he was elected Grand Master of Knights Templar for the United States, and positively declined a re-election as Secretary of the General Grand Chapter.

In 1862 he was again elected Grand Master of Knights Templar, so that he held that distinguished office for six consecutive years.

In 1867 he was again elected Grand Master of the District of Columbia, at the expiration of which term he was forced, by reason of declining years and increasing engagements, to decline any further election to that office.

Under his administration Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, and George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22, were chartered, and, as Grand Master of Masons, he laid the corner-stones of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington Monument, the Capitol Extension, and many other public buildings and churches in our city. In November, 1868, he was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and held that high honor at the time of his death.

In the year 1851 Bro. French received, at the hands of Illustrious Brother Giles Fonda Yates, the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, up to and including the 32d, and shortly afterwards was elected by the Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction to receive the 33d and last degree of Masonry. But a question having arisen as to whether the District of Columbia belonged to the Northern or Southern Jurisdiction, Bro. French, with his usual caution, declined receiving the latter degree until the boundary of the two jurisdictions should be definitely settled.

The Southern Jurisdiction having finally sustained fully and clearly its claim to the obedience of the District of Columbia, its Supreme Council duly elected Bro. French to receive the 33d degree of Sovereign Grand Inspector General, and as an active member of the Supreme Council for the District of Columbia, and on the 12th day of December, 1859, M. C. P. Sov. Grand Com-

mander Albert Pike duly invested him with the dignities of the summit of Freemasonry.

On the 21st day of April, 1866, he was elected Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council, and on the 4th day of May, 1870, he was elected to the office of Lieut. Grand Commander, which had been rendered vacant by the death of our distinguished and illustrious brother, Wm. J. Rockwell. This exalted station, only one step from the highest in the gift of the Craft, he lived to fill but a few short weeks, when the messenger from on high spake to him in a solemn, silent voice; bade him divest himself of the dross of mortality, and enter the portals of the eternal temple, to receive at the hands of the Grand Architect of the Universe his final degree—the true degree of Perfection, and the knowledge of the true word; to enjoy for an eternity the ineffable presence of “HIM that WAS, IS, and SHALL BE” and a membership in that Spiritual Lodge above where labor ceases forever, and the completed temple of man's salvation by faith in God, resounds with songs of praise and eternal anthems of joy.

It was in the precincts of the Holy Temple of Scottish Freemasonry that I best knew our illustrious brother. It was there I caught clear glimpses of his great and loving heart, and learned those estimable qualities which caused me to love him with the love of a son to a father. Our official relations were of the most intimate character, and I know that the fondest wish of his heart was that he might be spared to establish, on a firm foundation, the Rite he so dearly loved, in the home of his adoption. Probably, the last letter he ever wrote was concerning its interests, and amongst his last words was a message to me in regard to its affairs.

Only a few weeks ago we were assembled, in a neighboring city, to pay the last sad honors to our illustrious dead. I occupied a seat next to him, and when the sad ceremonial was ended he turned to me and said “and who next, brother?” Little did we then think that our next offices of mourning would be held around his casket, and that I should so soon be called upon to assist in paying the last sad tribute to his distinguished memory. Truly, “life is a vapor that appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away.”

But it is particularly in regard to his relations to Capitular Masonry that we are called upon to-night to contemplate the character of our deceased Companion.

Cast your eyes back with me for a few moments over the pages of Masonic history to the dark period of from 1830 to 1845. Very few, perhaps none, who hear me now have a personal knowledge of the terror of great darkness that spread through our peaceful tabernacles in those few eventful years, but how well, from the traditions of our fathers, do we know its mournful story.

Fanaticism stalked rampant throughout the length and breadth of our land, calumny blackened our escutcheons, men's hearts failed within them, our altars were thrown down and our temple was in confusion, and those whom we esteemed as our best friends enrolled themselves in the ranks of our enemies. In some sections it was the price of a man's life to acknowledge his connection with our Order. Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies closed their

doors, often never to reopen them, and the sacred fire burned dimly, as if upon the eve of extinguishment.

In this terrible war against Masonry it was natural that its interests in this District should suffer with the rest, and in no instance was the decay more strongly marked than in Capitular Masonry here. The old Grand Chapter of the District died from sheer want of vitality, and but two of its constituents remained, dragging along a torpid existence, half of life and half of death.

Under these circumstances Columbia Chapter was organized to rescue, if possible, the traditions of the Holy Royal Arch from a threatened extinction in this city. This was in the year 1840. During the first few years of its existence its progress, though sure, was very slow.

In 1846 Companion French sought admission within her veils, and in the succeeding year was elected her presiding officer.

From the moment of his exaltation he applied himself with diligence to the "great and noble work" in which we are engaged, and being profoundly impressed with the beauty and importance of our symbolic Second Temple, he stood upon its walls as "a workman who needeth not to be ashamed."

Immediately upon his admission Columbia Chapter made a wonderful bound forward in the march of progress. Though his energy and influence, good and true stones were presented at her portals until there was hardly room to receive them, and many, very many, who subsequently became prominent in Capitular Masonry here and throughout our land, look back with pleasure to the time when he directed their course over a rough and rugged road, and amid broken columns and weather-beaten fragments of the desolated Temple of Jehovah, assisted them to make those important discoveries which revealed to them a personal knowledge of the adorable I AM.

From this time there was no backward step in the progress of Capitular Masonry here. Its march has been steadily onward, like a noble river broadening and deepening until it now stands a noble monument to the labors of him who aided so much in its re-establishment, and who for so many years directed its labors as its chief presiding officer.

Standing, as we do to-night, an united Grand Chapter, supported by a flourishing constituency, the peer of our Capitular sisters, it is not well for us to forget another recent struggle, nor the friends who stood so nobly by us in the cause of the right.

When in the winter of 1866 and '7, with our charters suspended by an illegal and arbitrary decree, and ourselves anathematized as clandestine, we assembled to vindicate the rights inherent in us as Royal Arch Masons, the most of you well remember the anxiety with which every eye was turned to B. B. French, and the importance which was attached to his opinion and support.

We were not long kept in doubt, for as soon as he had carefully and conservatively canvassed the whole question, he nobly and unhesitatingly pronounced our action to be legal and supported by every axiom of Masonic law, and during the dark days of that struggle for existence he stood boldly forth as our advocate, and as a soldier of truth warmly supported our cause, even in the face of the thunderbolts hurled at us by the highest authority of the land.

Founding his opinion upon the well-grounded principles of Masonic common law, he did not for one moment doubt the ultimate and triumphant success to which his efforts, influence, and reputation so largely contributed.

Bravely and ably did he fight our battle in St. Louis in 1868, and had he not been accidentally absent from the convocation at which our case was finally decided, I have good reason to know that our complete triumph would not have been clouded by paradoxical and stultifying legislation, and the deciding tribunal would have been saved from the disgrace of rendering itself the laughing stock of Masonic jurists wherever dispersed over the face of the habitable globe.

When justice had fully vindicated herself, you well remember how, with a heart yearning with love towards those who had gone out from our midst, he diligently applied himself to the restoration of the disturbed harmony of our jurisdiction, and with what a tender hand he bound up and poured the oil of charity into the wounds that still remained.

How well the work of mercy was performed a happy, prosperous, and united jurisdiction can testify.

This labor of love was the last great work and fit conclusion of his busy life, and when he laid his head upon his pillow to enter upon the last long sleep, how truly it may be said that "he returned to his own country with the proud satisfaction of having discharged all his duties to the Craft."

As a Masonic jurist Companion French occupied a high and enviable position. The associate and peer of such men as Pike, Mackey, Chase, Morris, Macoy, Simons, and a host of others well known to Masonic fame, and possessed of a clear, logical, and well-disciplined mind, his decisions on points of Masonic law were received with the greatest respect and held in high esteem, and though he has left no volume of jurisprudence as a monument of his industry and research in this direction, still were his many decisions as Grand Master, Grand High Priest, and Grand Master of Templars collected and arranged, they would prove of invaluable assistance to the Masonic student desiring to attain a thorough understanding of the "Law and the Testimony."

As a scholar Companion French was a gentleman of ripe culture and high attainments, and probably there are few persons in this country who excelled him in a thorough knowledge of the classics of his own tongue.

He was an easy and extensive writer, his style being marked by a terse, plain, and vigorous use of the Saxon. He was one of the few men who possess the happy faculty of saying just what they want to say, at the right time and in the right manner.

As a poet his style was graceful, flowing and simple, addressing itself directly to the better feelings of our nature, and marked by the true fire of genius.

I learn with pleasure that a few of his personal friends contemplate collecting and publishing a selection of these sparkling gems. Could there also be added a collection of his numerous essays, addresses, and decisions of Masonic law, it would indeed form a precious volume replete with interest, instruction, and information not only to the Mason, but also to the general reader.

Have we not some one in our midst ready to undertake this laudable task, and thus erect to our departed brother a worthy memorial of his literary life?

Companion French was so well known to us all that more than an allusion to his personal character is unnecessary in this connection. It will be long ere we can forget his manly, noble face, his genial smile, his ringing cheerful voice, his warm greeting of welcome, the kind word fresh from the heart which was ever ready for the high and low, the rich and the poor; the gentle kindly warning when we erred, and the congratulatory praise when we walked carefully in the narrow path of rectitude.

He was loved by all, old and young, joining heartily and with a joyous laugh in the sports of youth, and gently sympathizing with the aged in the many cares and sorrows of the declining path of life.

He was of an ardent excitable temperament, a working man, using to advantage almost every moment of his prolonged life, throwing the whole enthusiasm of his nature into whatever task was assigned for him to do, and whatever he undertook he did with all his might.

His faculties were wonderfully preserved until the very last, and at a green old age he acted, thought, and moved with an energy unimpaired by time.

Liberal to a fault, he was often imposed upon by unworthy claims upon his generosity; but, in the goodness of his heart, I have often heard him remark that he would rather be swindled a thousand times than coldly to turn away a single worthy object of charity to suffer for what it was in his power to give.

His character was strongly marked by a child-like simplicity, and though crowned with honors far above the gift of prince or potentate, he bore them all without arrogance or unworthy pride. To the last hour of his life he was the simple, genial, good old man, with a heart overflowing with love to his fellow-creatures, and in turn beloved, respected, and esteemed by all who knew him.

The warm heart of our beloved brother is now chilled in the cold silence of the tomb; his cheerful voice no longer encourages us at our labors, his long life of usefulness is now numbered with the days which have been, his labors are completed, and his working tools have been laid orderly to one side. His faith is lost in sight, his hope ended in fruition, and on the other side of the impenetrable veil he now rejoices in the reward of his devoted life, and stands in the beauty of a renewed youth upon the threshold of a dawning eternity.

Though we most deeply feel his loss we cannot mourn his departure, nor would we recall him from the recompense of a well-earned reward to be again fettered with the heavy clogs of a decaying mortality.

Surely, Companions, in the contemplation of such a life as his there is a solemn, impressive, and important lesson to each and every one of us. The days of our life are few, but those of eternity are many. Life is given us as a school of probation to prepare us for that mysterious change which must surely overtake us. What we do we must do now, for in the starless night of the grave, which inevitably awaits us, the accounts for the manner in which we have employed our *talent* will be made up and the balance of eternal weal or eternal woe determined.

"Our lives are rivers, gliding free
To that unfathomed, bondless sea,
The silent grave!
Thither all earthly pomp and boast
Roll, to be gathered up and lost
In one dark wave.

Thither the mighty torrents stray,
Thither the brook pursues its way,
And tinkling rill.
There all are equal. Side by side
The poor man and the son of pride
Lie calm and still.

This world is but the rugged road
Which leads us to the bright abode
Of peace above;
So let us choose that narrow way
Which leads no traveler's foot astray
From realms of love.

Our cradle is the starting place,
In life we run the onward race,
And reach the goal;
When, in the mansions of the blest,
Death leaves to its eternal rest
The weary soul.

Did we but use it as we ought,
This world would school each wandering thought
To its high state.
Faith wings the soul beyond the sky,
Up to that better world on high,
For which we wait."

Time is the workshop of eternity, and if the Temple of Holiness is erected in our hearts it must be now. What was possible for our deceased Companion is possible for us. Life means duty, labor, work, and would we like him rejoice in a record of usefulness to our fellow-men, we must like him apply ourselves to its attainment. The lives of such men are guide-posts to our journey through the world, and beacon lights to our voyage over the tempestuous sea of mortality, and the warnings of their death call to us in trumpet tones, "Be ye also ready!"

Let us, then, apply our hearts to this solemn lesson, let us follow in his footsteps over the sands of time, so that when we too are called to pass from this living death to eternal life we may be received as true and tried stones, fit for the heavenly foundation, that will not "be rejected and thrown aside as unfit for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

On motion of Companion Grand Secretary, a vote of thanks was tendered to Companion Brown for his able and interesting address, and he was requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication with the proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

Comp. Mason, after a few appropriate remarks, moved that a committee of three be appointed to collect and publish the Masonic and poetical writings of our late M.: E.: Grand High Priest, Comp. B. B. French, which was adopted, and Companions Mason, Brown, and Daniels were appointed the committee.

M.: E.: Comp. A. G. Mackey, by invitation, made a few appropriate remarks, after which the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *November 14, 1870.*

The Annual Convocation of the Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at the Masonic Temple, at 7½ o'clock.

PRESENT :

M.: E.: Comp.	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R.: E.: Comp.	J. DANIELS	<i>Grand King.</i>
" "	E. B. MacGROTTY	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" "	C. SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E.: "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	A. HOLMEAD.....	<i>Rev. Grand Chaplain.</i>
" "	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
" "	J. E. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand R.: A.: Captain.</i>
" "	R. A. FISH.....	<i>Grand M.: of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand M.: of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	J. C. ALLEN.....	<i>as Grand M.: of 1st Vail.</i>
" "	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

M.: E.: Comp. A. G. Mackey, Past General Grand High Priest.

M.: E.: Comp. J. E. F. Holmead, Past Grand High Priest.

R.: E.: Comps. L. G. Stephens and W. M. Smith, Past Deputy Grand High Priests.

R. E. Comps. A. Glass and C. W. Hancock, Past Grand Kings, and the following

REPRESENTATIVES AND PAST HIGH PRIESTS :

Of No. 1—G. D. Patten, jr., H. P. ; H. S. Merrill, K. ; J. H. Jochum, S. ; Past High Priests, L. G. Stephens, J. Lockie, J. T. Brown.

Of No. 2—G. B. Clark, H. P. ; W. H. Earle, K. ; J. J. Chapman, S. ; Past High Priests J. E. F. Holmead, A. T. Longley, R. A. Fish.

Of No. 3—J. W. Griffin, H. P. ; S. Baxter, K. ; C. L. Patten, S. ; Past High Priests C. W. Hancock, J. Daniels.

Of No. 4—I. L. Johnson, H. P. ; A. Buchly, K. ; Past High Priests C. Smith, E. B. MacGrotty

Of No. 5—D. S. Jones, H. P. ; C. E. Coon, K. ; E. H. Fuller, S. ; Past High Priest N. D. Lerner.

Of No. 6—A. G. Glass, H. P. ; A. Woods, S.

Of No. 8—W. M. Smith, H. P. ; R. W. Hardy, K. ; Allen Wall, S.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form with prayer by the Rev. Grand Chaplain.

The minutes of preceding Convocations were read and approved.

The Grand High Priest delivered the following address :

COMPANIONS : Another year, with its many aspirations, its encouragements and disappointments, has been added to the arcana of the past, and we are permitted again to assemble in Grand Convocation, as Companions of the Holy Royal Arch ; and, as such, we would most humbly return our thanks to the Supreme Grand High Priest of the Universe for his merciful dealings to us during the past year ; and we would most reverently invoke his blessing upon all our deliberations ; and may we here renew, with fraternal greetings, the pleasant memories of the past, and resolve that we will endeavor more fully to discharge in future the great duties we owe to God, our Grand Chapter, and each other ; and may we take sweet counsel together for the future welfare of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction, the interests of which has been intrusted to this Grand Chapter ; faithfully may she keep her trust till time shall be no more. My Companions, it becomes my painful duty to announce officially to this G. C. that the solemn notes that betoken the dissolution of this earthly tabernacle have again alarmed our outer door, and another spirit has been summoned to the land where our fathers have gone before us. On the 12th day of August last our beloved Companion and Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Benjamin Brown French, was transferred from this imperfect to that all-perfect Celestial Grand Chapter above, where the Supreme Grand High Priest forever presides—forever reigns. And—

"Ne'er to mansions where the virtuous rest
Since their foundations, came a nobler guest ;
Nor to the bowers of bliss was e'er conveyed,
A nobler spirit or a gentler shade."

Our beloved Companion was called away while the sun of his Masonic life

was at high meridian for usefulness in this jurisdiction, and while he was still engaged with plans for future operations, but before their consummation he was called upon to report upon the discoveries he had made in the quarries while delving for eternal truth; for to him Faith, Hope, and Charity were living, vital principles, exemplified in his every-day life. Brotherly love, forbearance, kindness, and sympathy were developed in a thousand forms; his conduct was squared by justice, hence his demeanor ever bore the impress of courtesy and kindness, while uprightness of heart and integrity of life clearly proved to our minds that the immovable jewels of Masonry had been stamped indelibly upon his great soul, and we doubt not but that he has received from the Omniscient Judge the thrilling invitation, "Come, ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." We doubt not but our great loss is his eternal gain.

I would ask the Companions to excuse me for trespassing so much upon their time, for no one more fully realizes than myself the fact, that this subject has been presented to this Grand Chapter by a Companion, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy (Masonically) to unloose.

Companions, the fond hopes cherished at the last Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter by all, viz: that Unity, Peace, and Fraternity should be established upon a permanent basis throughout this jurisdiction, has been happily consummated; at which we greatly rejoice.

"For now the scene is not the same—
Evening beams over stream and sod;
The burning *West* is all aflame
With splendors lit by God."

I am happy to be able to report to the G. C. C. that harmony and prosperity are the grand characteristics that have distinguished us during the past year as a jurisdiction, nothing, so far as I am aware, having transpired to disturb its harmony or interfere with its prosperity, for which we should, with united hearts and voices, send up our adoration and praise to the great I AM, to whom we must ever be great debtors.

Companions, as a consummation of an arrangement entered into by our beloved Most E. C. B. B. French (deceased) with the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, I have appointed M. E. Companion William Hay, Representative of this Grand Chapter near the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland.

I know of no recommendations to submit for your consideration, except one or two, which I will state orally.

Finally, my Companions, may health, union, and peace be with us all, and may each of us remember in whom we put our trust, and ever ascribe to the Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, and Almighty Jehovah, all honor, praise, and glory, now, henceforth, and forevermore. Amen.

JOHN LOCKIE.

The Grand High Priest then suggested several changes that he deemed important in the working of the degrees, which, together with various other suggestions relating thereto, made by several of the Companions, and the following resolution, offered

by Past Grand High Priest Holmead, were referred to a committee consisting of the Grand Visitor and Lecturer and the High Priests of the several subordinate chapters:

Resolved, That the alterations in the work of the R. A. Degree, recommended by the M. E. G. H. Priest, be, and the same are hereby, adopted, and that the Grand Visitor and Lecturer be directed, in his official capacity, to communicate the same to the subordinates of this Grand Chapter.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand Chapter communications from the Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania, transmitting resolutions recognizing the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia; one from the Grand Secretary of Michigan, announcing the indefinite suspension of Czar Jones, P. G. High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Michigan; one from the Grand Secretary of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, transmitting the proceedings of said Grand Chapter, which were read and ordered to be placed on file.

Companion John Edwin Mason, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted the following report, which was received and ordered to be printed with the proceedings:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia:

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence respectfully report that the proceedings of the following Grand Chapters have been received, read, and carefully reviewed.

These proceedings embrace a complete summary of all the Grand Chapters on the globe except those of England and Ireland, and contain about four thousand pages, which have been carefully read by your committee:

Alabama	1869	Mississippi	1870
Arkansas.....	1869	Missouri	1869
California	1870	Michigan	1870
Canada	"	Nebraska.....	1869
Connecticut	"	New Hampshire.....	'69 & '70
Delaware.....	1869	New Jersey.....	1869
England.....	1870	New York.....	1870
Florida	"	North Carolina	1869
France	1870	Nova Scotia	1870
Georgia.....	"	Ohio... ..	1870
Illinois.....	1869	Oregon	1869
Indiana.....	"	Pennsylvania.....	'68 & '69
Iowa	"	Rhode Island.....	1869
Kansas.....	"	Scotland.....	1870
Kentucky	"	South Carolina.....	"

Louisiana	1870	Tennessee.....	1869
Maine	"	Texas.....	1870
Massachusetts	1869	Vermont	1869
Maryland	"	Virginia	"
Minnesota	1870	Wisconsin	1870

ALABAMA.

Alphabetically we take up first in order the proceedings of this State. "Alabama" means, in the Indian tongue, "here we rest," but in this report on foreign correspondence it means "here we begin."

The work must begin here, and action is called for in the case of Alabama.

"Away, then—work with boldness and with speed;
On greatest actions greatest dangers feed."

And yet we must remember that in these days, as in those of old—

"Beneath the rule of men entirely great,
"The pen is mightier than the sword. Behold
"The *arch enchanter's* wand! itself a nothing!
"But taking sorcery from the master hand,
"To paralyze the Cæsars, and to strike
"The loud earth breathless."

—*Bulwer's Richelieu.*

The Forty-third Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in Montgomery, December 7, 1869, with representatives present from fifty-five of the sixty-four Chapters on the roll. We are delighted to see the prosperity exhibited among the Royal Craft in Alabama. This State is evidently recovering from the financial embarrassments into which she was plunged at the close of the war better than some of her Southern sisters. At this Convocation of the Grand Chapter only one subordinate was released from paying its Grand Chapter dues, and no other asked this favor. Prosperity seems to smile on our Companions there, and we rejoice that the dark cloud of financial adversity has been lifted, and now the noon-day sun shines clear upon our fraters on the Tombigbee and Alabama.

Grand High Priest Peleg Brown delivered a lengthy address, mostly occupied by the recital of trouble he had with Mobile Chapter, No. 21, on which a committee of the Grand Chapter poured oil and sustained the Chapter, instead of their Grand High Priest, in a very able and spicy report.

He again makes a plea for Alabama to return to her allegiance and bow her head to the yoke of the General Grand Chapter, from which she cut loose in 1861. The plea is a poor one, made in a whimpering manner, beneath the dignity of a Grand High Priest.

Alabama threw off her manacles, and is now free, and had better keep so. Let her take warning by the example furnished by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. All the trouble we ever had here was brought upon us by the General Grand Chapter and its officers. The G. H. P. gives the following interesting history of Alabama's troubles with the G. G. Chapter:

"In my first address I called the attention of the Grand Chapter to the

resolution adopted in 1861, tending to sever our connection with the General Grand Chapter of the United States; also to the action of that body on the subject at their Triennial Convocation in Saint Louis in 1868; and by reference to our proceedings it appears that no action was had on the subject. In referring to the matter at that time I was unable to trace the history of our Grand Chapter as clearly as I desired. Since publishing the Chapter Code, compiled by our Grand Secretary, and taking that in connection with the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter in 1826, I find the history more complete. It appears that the first attempt to form a Grand Chapter in this State was made in 1823 under the authority of the General Grand High Priest, De-witt Clinton; but it was attended with many embarrassing circumstances. The necessary quorum it appears could not be obtained to meet the requirements of the General Grand Constitution; yet in May 21st, 1823, it was declared, and a constitution adopted, and Grand Officers elected. But at no time does it appear that representatives from more than two Chapters were present. Still the so-called Grand Chapter continued to meet from time to time and to grant Charters; but frequently failing for want of a quorum. On one occasion the Grand Secretary met, "called the roll, no one answering, he adjourned himself." Difficulties now began to arise, Alabama Chapter at Cahaba, and Monroe Chapter at Claiborne, refusing to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, and for which the Grand Chapter declared them irregular. At this time, there being only four Chapters in the State, deriving their authority from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, viz., Tuscaloosa, Mobile, Alabama, and Monroe, and the two latter declared irregular for refusing allegiance to the Grand Chapter. Monroe Chapter memorialized the General Grand Chapter of the United States, remonstrating against the Grand Chapter of Alabama. The Grand Chapter also sent a communication to the General Grand Chapter, setting forth the difficulty, both of which were laid before the General Grand Chapter at their Convocation in 1826, and which were referred to a committee, who reported a series of resolutions, which may be found in the compendium of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, p. 80, which were unanimously adopted, and which caused a reformation or the forming of this Grand Chapter, June 2d, 1827, by the four Chapters above named, acknowledging allegiance to, and under the authority of, the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

The subject of the G. G. Chapter was referred to a committee, with instructions to report at the next Annual Convocation.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported in favor of recognizing the new Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia; which was adopted. No substitutes are allowed in Alabama in conferring the R. A. Degree, and they borrow candidates among the different Chapters when three cannot be obtained in the small Chapters in remote parts of the State. We are glad to see them comply with their obligations so well.

Companion P. J. Pillans presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of 31 Grand Chapters, ours among the number. He speaks of Companion Chipman's report on Jurisprudence for 1868 as follows:

"In these proceedings we find a very able report from the Committee on

Jurisprudence as to the amount of maiming necessary to the disqualification of the applicant, and though we cannot go quite as far as this committee in its disregard of the 'perfect man,' yet we are of opinion that most of its views are correct, though more liberal than those usually entertained."

ARKANSAS.

The Twentieth Annual Convocation was held at Little Rock October 28, 1869, twenty-one of the forty-seven Chapters in the State being represented.

One new dispensation was granted, and Grand High Priest Barber reported that he had issued four dispensations, and charters were granted to each.

Bound in the same pamphlet are the proceedings of the Grand Council, which show a list of 20 Councils, all in a flourishing condition, in the State.

Grand High Priest Barber gave an able address to the Craft, in which there are many good things. We clip the following from his valedictory address :

"I informed you at our last Convocation of the pendency of a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, dropping the Past Master's degree ; and although there will be another Convocation of this Grand Chapter before the next triennial meeting of the General Grand body, I call your attention to it again that the vote of your then Representatives shall express your judgment. For myself, changes in Masonry are not to my taste : they are not always improvements, and even if I considered them as such, I should prefer to transmit Masonry to those who shall succeed me, the same in all respects as I received it. Perhaps the Past Master's degree should not have been incorporated among the Chapter degrees ; and perhaps, too, my disinclination to the amendment arises from the difficulty of determining how it may affect my future relation to another body."

This important subject was referred to a special committee, that made the following report, which was adopted :

"The committee on the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States made the following report, which was adopted :

"To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas :

"The committee to whom was referred that portion of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest's address alluding to the removal of the degree of Past Master from Capitular Masonry, have had the subject under consideration, and beg leave to report the following :

"That with due deference to the wisdom and Masonic knowledge of the General Grand Chapter, we are unwilling to countenance what might be deemed an innovation in the body of Masonry, and would greatly prefer transmitting to our posterity Masonry as we received it from our ancestors."

This is a very handsome rejoinder to the foolish attempt at innovation made in the General Grand Chapter. The damage done to Capitular Masonry in Maryland as well as the District of Columbia through the intermeddling of the General Grand Chapter does not seem to satiate that Grand body, but it now strikes a blow at Capitular Masonry as taught by our fathers a century

ago. Is not this a sufficient cause to have this General Grand Humbug abolished? Let Arkansas speak once more on this subject.

Work in the degrees was exemplified before the Grand Chapter on candidates elected in a subordinate, and not elected *by the Grand Chapter*, as we believe was once done in Arkansas.

Electing candidates for the degrees in the Grand Chapter has been denounced by nearly all the Grand Chapters in the United States, and we are glad to see the custom abolished.

There is no report this year on Foreign Correspondence, although a committee was appointed by the Grand Chapter. It saves a great deal of time and labor to get excused from making a report, and is a very nice thing for the committee. Most of the Grand Chapters in the United States, however, would not be so kind to their committees, and very likely censure them for this neglect of duty.

CALIFORNIA.

The Sixteenth Annual Convocation was held at San Francisco, April 5, 1870, with Representatives of twenty-eight Chapters in attendance.

Grand High Priest Harville gave an address which is a model of brevity and practical sense. If Grand High Priests would only stop talking when they have got nothing more to say, they would confer a favor on the Royal Craft.

Too many think they must spin out a yarn of common-place platitudes and whining cant until they weary the Companions beyond all endurance. When committees are appointed on the Grand High Priest's address they find absolutely nothing to report, and they are in the situation of the down-east fishermen that captured a large amount of fog on the Grand Banks, and were disgusted to find that a single ray of sunshine evaporated all their plunder. The following resolution was passed, and would do good in the District of Columbia:

"No petition for the degrees, or application for membership, shall be received by any Chapter within this jurisdiction, unless it be signed with the full name or names of the petitioner or applicant; and, in the annual reports of the subordinate Chapters, the given name or names of every member or others upon their rolls shall be given in full."

Companion L. C. Owen presented a fine report on Foreign Correspondence, which shows that he read carefully the proceedings of the thirty Grand Chapters he reviewed. In his review of the General Grand Chapter he makes the following singular statement:

"Nothing was done of importance to the Craft, and indeed nothing can be done by the General Grand Chapter, it having no power to enforce an edict if it thought proper or necessary to promulgate one, or compel the obedience of any Grand Chapter refusing to obey its mandate. We are in favor of vesting the General Grand Chapter with such powers as the Grand Encampment of the United States possesses, believing that its present circumscribed authority does not permit it to be of any use or service."

If Companion Owen had lived in Washington, where a knowledge of the General Grand Chapter, with the trouble it has caused already, with its small amount of power, is familiar, he never would wish to have it possessed of power to make more trouble. The cause of all our trouble in Maryland and the District of Columbia is charged directly to the General Grand Chapter and its officers. The attempt to settle it by the General Grand Chapter only plunged us all deeper in the mire, and at last we had a mutual settlement between ourselves.

We extend the right hand to Companion Owen for the following kind recognition, and salute him with the compliments of our Companions in the National Capital. With the chain of fraternal love may we ever be united :

"At the Resumed Convocation held on the thirtieth inst., the Report on Correspondence was presented by Companion J. Edwin Mason. The proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters, those of California for 1867 included, are reviewed. Companion Mason was evidently not very well pleased that we did not instantly recognize his Grand Chapter, but he did not take into consideration that we had but just received intelligence of its formation, accompanied almost immediately with the edict of the General Grand High Priest, declaring it irregular and clandestine, which edict all Royal Arch Masons acknowledging allegiance to the body, of which he was the chief, were under obligations to obey until it was set aside by that body. Had time afforded opportunity for investigation perhaps dissent from the justice of the edict might have been expressed, but even then his decision was paramount until the General Grand Chapter acted. Though we may not approve the manner of settlement, no Grand Chapter in the United States extends a more cordial and fraternal greeting to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia than does the Grand Chapter of California."

CANADA.

The Twelfth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held at Kingston, August 10, 1869, twenty-five of the thirty Chapters being represented, with six under dispensation.

M. E. Comp. T. Douglas Harrington, Grand Z., presented an address, which was read by the Grand Scribe E.. He gives the following in his address, which is a Royal, if not a Royal Arch, greeting :

"There is one more subject I think of, before concluding, and I am sure you will all agree with me that it is one calling for congratulation. I allude to the gratifying fact of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, having become a Freemason. I believe I speak your sentiments, when I say, in a few sincere words, that we have a right to feel a pardonable pride and a loyal pleasure in having enrolled on the long list of members of our Institution the Heir to the Throne of the British Empire, and the son of our beloved and most estimable and good Queen ; whom may God preserve !"

R. E. Comp. Henry Robertson presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is a courteous and valuable report. He congratulates us on the termination of our Grand Chapter difficulties, and extends to us, in behalf of the Grand Chapter of Canada, the right hand of fellowship.

The proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Convocation held at Quebec,

August 10, 1870, have just come to hand. There is much information in this report interesting to all Companions in the United States.

The M. E. Grand Z., T. Douglas Harrington, presented his annual address, in which he congratulates the Royal Craft on its great prosperity throughout Her Majesty's Dominions. He says there are thirty-nine Subordinate Chapters under the Grand Chapter of Canada, and he has issued dispensations for four more. Old St. Andrews at Toronto has been revived, and St. Johns in the same city, under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, has surrendered its charter and joined St. Andrews. He greets the new Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, taken from that jurisdiction, as follows:

"Since our last Annual Convocation the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia has been formally organized, and, although I could not help thinking the action somewhat premature, considering the small number of Chapters existing in that Province, yet, acting on my conviction, that where there is a Grand Lodge, a Grand Chapter may of right follow, I had no hesitation about acknowledging the '*Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia*,' and wishing that body all success and prosperity.

"The '*Grand Mark Lodge of England*' also claimed recognition, and an interchange of Brotherly courtesies, and as the Mark Degree is one of those sanctioned by this Grand Chapter, I saw nothing opposed to the allowance of that claim, and the Grand Scribe E. wrote to the authorities in England accordingly by my desire, conveying the recognition and good wishes of Grand Chapter."

He gives a touching eulogy on the Masonic life of the Earl of Zetland, for 25 years Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of England. It is as follows:

"The only remaining subject to which I invite your notice is the retirement of the Most Excellent Companion, the Earl of Zetland, from the high office of Grand Z. of the *Grand Chapter of England*, which, all of you know, he has worthily held for more than a quarter of a century, and now vacates, owing to ill health, to the great regret and sorrow of all over whom he has ruled for so long and arduous a period. I think the Grand Chapter would honor herself by sending home to England a complimentary address to that courteous kind hearted Nobleman and Companion expressive of our high esteem and good wishes for his restoration to health and future comfort."

He introduces a subject in his address concerning which we had, here in Washington, an interesting experience. It is this paragraph:

"Another and a most serious matter I submit also for the due consideration of Grand Chapter is our proposed authorized Ritual. The committee have attended to this very carefully and anxiously; a report is prepared, the work is in readiness for exemplification, and the result will be submitted to your wisdom for your determination. And, while on this topic, I have to suggest to Grand Chapter to consider the necessity and propriety of working the degrees of '*Royal and Select Masters*,' as practiced in the United States of America, and known as '*Cryptic*' Masonry. These degrees would seem to be proper appendages to Grand Chapter and Royal Arch Masonry, and are interesting, if not absolutely necessary. The Province of New Brunswick has a recognized Grand Council controlling these degrees, and I have been appointed Inspector in and for Quebec and Ontario. But it would obviously be

preferable for Grand Chapter at once to assume the government and grant warrants, which action, when three or more subordinate Councils spring into life, will result in the regular organization of a Grand Council for Quebec and Ontario, and thus place the degrees on a correct and prosperous footing."

Now, we beg leave to say to M. E. Comp. Harrington, that his Grand Chapter had better not "assume the government" over the Council degrees in Canada, unless he wants the same trouble we have just settled here. His Grand Chapter can no more "assume" authority over the Council degrees than it can over the Symbolic degrees, and it would be no less ridiculous. It cannot gobble up degrees that are laying around loose and swallow them without straining its powers of deglutition beyond endurance.

Every Grand Council in the United States will refuse to recognize all receiving the degrees of Royal, Select, or Super-Excellent Master under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Canada. Up to 1867, the degrees of Select and Royal Master were conferred in *Chapters* here in Washington, but all receiving them in this manner were refused admission to all Councils in the United States. So, when our Grand Chapter was formed, these degrees were struck out, and have never been conferred in *Chapters* since in the District of Columbia.

The Council degrees have been conferred in Chapters in Maryland, until last year a committee was ordered to strike them out. The only State, and the only spot on earth, where the Royal and Select degrees are conferred now in *Chapters* is in Virginia, where they were spliced on to the Grand Chapter for what was termed a "convenience" about thirty years ago. But the strong sentiment now in Virginia against this practice will soon compel the "Old Dominion" to strike them out.

We instituted a Council of Select, Royal, and Super-Excellent Masters here in Washington under the authority of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, where M. E. Comp. Harrington had better apply for dispensations.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was again presented by R. E. Comp. Henry Robertson, and it is one of the best we have read this year. In regard to information about New Brunswick, he answers our questions asked last year, as follows:

"A very elaborate and interesting report on Correspondence was submitted by E. Comp. John Edwin Mason, covering nearly eighty pages. The proceedings of thirty-six Grand Bodies are reviewed. Canada is kindly noticed, but for what year the report does not say. In reply to our Companion's query, we would state that in New Brunswick there are nine Chapters, viz: two Canadian, one English, and six Scotch. In Nova Scotia there are four Chapters, viz: one Canadian, one English, and two Scotch, three of which took part in the formation of the Grand Chapter for that Province on the 14th October, 1869."

CONNECTICUT.

We have from the Grand Secretary, Comp. Wheeler, the proceedings of the Semi-Annual Convocation held in Middletown, November 2, 1869, and the Annual Convocation held in Hartford, May 10, 1870. Twenty-nine Chapters were represented, and prosperity seems to prevail in Capitular Ma-

sonry all over the "Charter Oak State." Grand High Priest Barlow delivered an address mostly filled with local subjects.

If every Grand Chapter would pass a resolution like the following, which was adopted, much valuable information could be collected for the Craft that will soon be lost forever :

"Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to collect, so far as possible, all the documents, writings, and other information relating to the introduction of Royal Arch Masonry into this State, and its subsequent history down to the organization of this Grand Chapter."

Grand Secretary Larnier is put down in the proceedings as residing at *"Milford, D. C.,"* which may account for the fact that the proceedings from Connecticut did not come to hand until we sent for them to her Grand Secretary.

The Venerable Companion Wm. Storer declined to serve longer as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence on account of his extreme age. He has presented this report for nineteen years, and a similar one to the Grand Lodge for fifteen years. In presenting his report this year he gave a graceful and touching valedictory to the Craft, and his brethren of the quill abroad.

We part with this venerable and esteemed brother with feelings of sorrow, for he will be a loss to the editorial staff. God bless him, and give him health and strength for many years.

His notice of the correspondence of this Grand Chapter is kind and fraternal. He devotes four pages to our Grand Chapter, and quotes a part of our report of last year, and all of Grand High Priest French's address relating to Potomac Chapter.

DELAWARE.

Second Annual Convocation was held at Dover, January 19, 1870, with four Chapters being represented. Grand High Priest D. C. Godwin made a short address, principally on local subjects. The following is cut from his address :

"Having information that a body of men at Lewes, within this jurisdiction, were conferring the several Capitular degrees of Masonry, I wrote to a companion of that place to elicit the facts of the case. I have, however, had no response. I would, therefore, suggest that a committee be appointed to make the necessary investigation and report the result to the Grand Council at an early day, so that proceedings may be taken to correct the same."

A committee was appointed, and this committee may possibly learn that these Companions are working under authority from Pennsylvania or Virginia, or some other Grand Chapter that never recognized the General Grand Chapter. Or it may turn out that these Companions have been to Trenton, N. J., and got their degrees, as certain Companions did residing in Wilmington when they wanted to start a Grand Chapter, and so went away from the Chapter then existing in Wilmington, and went out of this world into New Jersey to take them.

Grand High Priest Godwin gives the following lofty peroration in his address :

"I am pleased to add that we have official notice from the General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States that we are engrafted upon and are now a constituent part of that body, received, enrolled, and to be recognized as such."

We are in trouble here in Washington to know what particular part of the General Grand Chapter Delaware is "engrafted upon." We had supposed the District of Columbia hung to the extreme point of the caudal extremity of the General Grand Chapter, but we surrender our hold to Delaware and grab further up. We thought our little seven-by-nine District of Columbia would always be obliged to maintain this position, but, thanks to Delaware, we are promoted. As we have nearly a thousand Royal Arch Masons in this District, we look on Delaware, with only 123 in her four Chapters, as being entitled to remain the youngest entered apprentice in the northeast corner. Yet we salute our young sister with the affection customary to new-comers into the household.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence received the proceedings of 12 Grand Chapters, but had no time to review them. Our proceedings are not acknowledged. The committee claim they had but few hours to examine these proceedings and report, and they add the following:

"These considerations would be sufficient to prevent any public discussion or statements of the history of our Grand Chapter, as referred to in several of the reports before us. While it might be agreeable to us to spread abroad in printed form the exact process by which the Grand Chapter of this State became a member of the great Fraternity, whose Congress will again meet next year—and thus to correct the erroneous impressions of various Grand Chapters, and even of the General Grand Chapter itself; still the story would be too long for those who heretofore had but little knowledge of us, and whose sympathy might be tried a little too far if the troubles of a single Chapter were thrust upon their attention."

The less said about the "exact process" by which the Grand Chapter of Delaware was formed the better it will be for those now constituting it. After much labor and research we gave in our proceedings last year the only correct history of this transaction that has ever appeared in print.

The following review of Delaware is from the report of Companion Horner of Louisiana, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence:

"Companion Daniel C. Godwin was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion *General* Alfred T. A. Torbert, Grand Secretary.

"Now, let Brother Scot and Companion Gouley, and all the rest of the 'corps' that make it part of their creed to say, 'from all unmasonic titles, Good Grand Secretaries, deliver us,' pale their ineffectual fires, and let 'thirty-thirds' and 'M. D's.' reign triumphant. This last new phase, 'General,' beats the 'Flour Inspector' all hollow. Recurring to the profane world for an explanation of what to us Masonically is an hieroglyphic, we are constrained to think that 'Gen.' stands for 'General,' and wonder to what army, or to what species, legal, military, or otherwise, our Companion belongs, with a slight suspicion that it may be 'Horse Marines.' We did think that enough Masonic modesty existed to have spared us this last inflection; it is impossible to make it more ridiculous, however, than to show our

brethren how it looks exactly as it appears in the printed proceedings before us—first, in the *signature* :

“ATTEST : Gen. A. T. A. TORBERT, *Grand Secretary*.”

“And again in the returns of the subordinate Chapter, thus :

“Comp. Gen. ALFRED T. A. TORBERT, *R. A. C.*”

“Let our other titular dignitaries of Rites and Learned Professions take back seats.”

FLORIDA.

The Twenty-third Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held at Tallahassee, January 10, 1870, thirteen Chapters being represented.

A dispensation for a new Chapter, at Gainesville, was given by the Grand High Priest. Two new Chapters were chartered the past year at Providence and Key West.

Our beloved Companions in Florida have complained of poverty for several years past, as being a serious obstacle to the success of Capitular Masonry. Yet at this Convocation the Grand Chapter voted the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence \$100 for his labor, while the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia never paid a dollar for similar work performed since it was organized.

The report on Foreign Correspondence by Companion Thos. A. Carruth is carefully prepared and well written. He rejoices over the ending of troubles in this jurisdiction, and pays our last report a very handsome compliment.

GEORGIA.

We have received a copy of Grand High Priest Samuel Lawrence's address, published in a separate pamphlet from the proceedings, delivered at the Annual Convocation, April 28, 1869. Appended to it is the following official resolution :

“*Resolved*, That inasmuch as the Grand Orient of France has, by a decree issued on the 5th day of November, 1868, recognized a ‘spurious body’ styling itself ‘The Supreme Council of the A. and A. S. Rite, in and for the sovereign State of Louisiana,’ claiming jurisdiction over all the degrees of Masonry in that State : This Grand Chapter hereby suspends all fraternal intercourse with the Grand Orient of France until said Grand Orient shall retrace her steps in the premises.

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary transmit at once a copy of the foregoing resolution, under the seal of this Grand Chapter, to our sister Grand Chapter of Louisiana.”

He gives the following decision on a point of Masonic law, or rather a violation of an obligation :

“1. The practice being common to use substitutes in the R. A. Degree, I was required to decide if it was legal. I could not do otherwise than decide that it was not. I would rather have said it was not proper ; as many exaltations in Georgia have been made with the use of one or more substitutes. But the question was direct, and could not be evaded, I do not think, how-

ever, the decision should be construed to have retrospective action, and unsettle the legality of former exaltations, nor do I think such construction is intended."

In a pamphlet apart from the proceedings we have received a finely written report on Foreign Correspondence from Companion J. Emmett Blackshear, for 1869. He reviews the proceedings of twenty Grand Chapters, ours for 1868 among the number. His review of our Grand Chapter is courteous and Masonic. He says:

"The report on Foreign Correspondence is a well written paper, as we would naturally expect, coming, as it does, from the pen of M. E. B. B. French."

The proceedings of the Annual Convocation, held at Augusta, April 27, 1870, have come to hand. The credentials report show that forty-three Chapters were represented.

Grand High Priest Kellogg delivered a long address, in which he referred in eulogistic terms to the Masonic life of the late lamented Companion, Wm. S. Rockwell, whose friendship and sympathy for our Grand Chapter will not soon be forgotten. He was the Nestor of Freemasonry in Georgia, and beloved for his purity of life and sterling qualities of character.

Companion Samuel Lawrence presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of sixteen Grand Chapters, ours not among the number. Why the Grand Secretary of Georgia does not get our proceedings, as well as those in other jurisdictions, we cannot say.

The following strange report, making a sad innovation in Capitular Masonry, was presented, and the author allowed to run at large instead of being sent at once to a lunatic asylum:

"Companion Roddey, from the committee appointed to take into consideration the propriety and expediency of expunging the Past Master's from the curriculum of Chapter degrees, submitted the following report, which was laid on the table until the next Annual Grand Convocation:

"It is known to the student in Masonry that anciently the Royal Arch degree was conferred by virtue of a dispensation emanating from a Lodge of Master Masons, and such an organization as a Chapter was unknown. For reasons that it is unnecessary to discuss, a separate organization was determined on, and probably to increase its interest, Symbolic Masonry was made to contribute a portion of their rites, and the degrees now known as Mark and Most Excellent were engrafted into Capitular Masonry, and with it came the honorarium of Past Master.

"Your committee do not believe in the so-called Progressive Masonry of modern days, and think that we progress only as we return to the ancient usages and customs. The difficulty that arose between the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, with reference to this degree of Past Master, is known to the older members of this Grand Body, and in consequence of this trouble we were compelled to emasculate it, and it now stands naked and deformed, possessing neither utility or usefulness. It may be urged that the General Grand Chapter recognizes and authorizes this degree; and the same may be said of our sister jurisdictions. To the first objection we state, that our connection with the General Grand Body is dissolved, and we owe it no allegiance; and

to the latter, we but testify our appreciation of the dignity of the Holy Royal Arch when we lop off a parasite that affects its well-being.

"Holding these sentiments, your committee submit the following resolution :

"That the Past Master's degree be expunged from the list of Capitular degrees in this jurisdiction.

" R. L. RODDEY,

" R. M. SMITH,

" D. N. AUSTIN,

" Committee."

ILLINOIS.

The Twentieth Annual Convocation was held at Springfield, October 8, 1869, one hundred and thirty-four Chapters being represented.

There are 7,581 Royal Arch Masons in Illinois, with 869 who have been exalted the last year. This is a wonderful prosperity in twenty years.

Grand High Priest Miles delivered a sensible, business-like address, mostly filled with subjects of a local character.

Companion H. G. Reynolds presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is as courteous and fraternal as all his Masonic works. He announces that this report is his valedictory, which will grieve the Royal Craft all over the country, for his retirement will prove a national loss to Capitular Masonry.

As editor of the *Trowel*, which so many of our Companions in Washington have read with profit and interest, and as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for *seventeen years*, he has done a noble work for Masonry.

In concluding his report, he makes the following statement :

"This is the seventeenth consecutive report prepared by the chairman of this Committee. How far his discussions with other committees, and his presentations to this Grand Chapter have been satisfactory, is not for him to say. Now and then a painful duty has been performed, but in a general way the duty, though laborious, has been pleasant. This is, in all probability, the last report he will present to this Grand Chapter.

"He came to the duties of Grand Secretary in 1851, in the midst of an increasing practice. He can say that his heart and soul were in them. The duties of Masonic positions increased until they became his entire business, and, from working as a Mason, he became a clerical officer from necessity. Devoted as he is to symbolic Masonry, still his fondest and most endearing recollections are connected with his work and associations in Royal Arch Masonry. They will be sacredly cherished while life remains. Now, at the age of fifty-nine, with a large family dependent upon him, he goes forth penitently to make his way as best he can in the world."

The Grand Chapter of Illinois only did its duty when it passed the following resolution, reported by a special committee :

"That in view of Companion Reynolds' distinguished and laborious service in this Grand Chapter, for a period extending over seventeen years, and of his great zeal in the cause of Royal Arch Masonry, as evinced in his reports

while chairman of the Committee on Masonic Correspondence, for that length of time, and of his pecuniary circumstances at his age in life; therefore,

"*Resolved*, By the Grand Chapter of the State of Illinois, that the sum of one thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby paid to Companion H. G. Reynolds, as a slight testimony of our appreciation and regard."

His review of the District of Columbia is kind and fraternal. He has always been a true friend to our Grand Chapter, through all its dark days, and gave more light to the Royal Craft on this subject, than any other Mason in the west.

The report of our Grand Chapter for 1868, written by, and presented to the Grand Chapter by the author of this report, for 1870, is fraternally alluded to as follows:

"Companion French presented the report on Correspondence. It is fraternal and kindly. It is like himself, with malice all left out. We give his notice of Illinois in full."

Thank you for the compliment to our beloved frater, now affiliated above, with angels guarding him in the Holy Temple.

The following resolutions are cut from the digest of laws that govern Capitular Masonry in Illinois, and ought to be read by all Royal Arch Masons:

"12. *Resolved*, That no Chapter, or officer or member thereof, shall, under any circumstances, give a certificate or recommendation to enable a Mason of any degree to proceed from Chapter to Chapter as a pauper, or in any itinerant manner to apply to Chapters for relief.—1858.

"20. *Resolved*, That the conferring of R. A. degree on less than three actual candidates at a time, is hereby expressly forbidden by this Grand Chapter.—1866.

"21. *Resolved*, That any Companion shall have the right, at any time, to object to the advancement of a candidate in his Chapter, and that it shall be unlawful to advance such candidate until the objection is removed.—1867.

"22. *Resolved*, That the conferring of the Royal Arch degree on less than three actual candidates at a time, is hereby expressly forbidden by this Grand Chapter; and if any Chapter violates this resolution it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest at once to arrest its charter.—1867.

"23. *Resolved*, That all Chapters within this grand jurisdiction are hereby directed to confer the degree of Past Master on *all* candidates before advancing to the M. E. M. degree.—1867.

"24. *Resolved*, That no applicant for Chapter degrees, if rejected, shall be allowed to present his petition a second time, until the expiration of twelve months from the date of such rejection.—1867."

INDIANA.

Twenty-fourth Annual Convocation at Franklin, October 20, 1869, sixty-three Chapters being represented. Grand High Priest Hazelrigg gave a long but interesting address, covering twenty-three closely printed pages. They still persist in Indiana in calling the convocations of their Chapters a "*communication*," and using Blue Lodge terms in their Chapters. They have other

queer ways of doing things in the "Hoosier State" different from any other State. They compel their Grand High Priest to write the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is the only case of the kind known. He does not review each Grand Chapter separately, but puts them into one lump, and thus avoids much labor, though the Companions in Indiana will know very little of the Masonic world outside of Indiana from this report. He gives our Grand Chapter and Maryland the only separate notice. He favors the use of substitutes in the R. A. degree, thus violating his obligations, and ancient land-marks. The following is taken from his address:

"A circular from the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, complaining of a violation of their jurisdiction by the Grand Orient of France, has been received. From all the information I have on the subject, I consider it the duty of every Grand Chapter to sustain our Louisiana Companions in the position of non-intercourse which they have adopted towards the Grand Orient. We had as well now as at any future time, and I think it will be easier done now than hereafter, inform our transatlantic Companions that the 'Monroe Doctrine' has taken deep root in American soil. Let us assure our Louisiana Companions that they not only have our sympathy, but that they shall have our hearty co-operation in every laudable effort to maintain the integrity of their jurisdiction."

IOWA.

The Fifteenth Annual Convocation was held at Mt. Pleasant, October 20, 1869, thirty-five Chapters being represented. Grand High Priest Pitkin C. Wright delivered one of the best addresses we have read the present year. He is evidently an efficient officer, for he says in his address that he has visited personally or by deputy all the Chapters in the State. He urges the Grand Chapter to adopt some length of time, at least four months, after a candidate has received the Master's degree before his petition can be received in a Chapter, and thinks there is too much desire to rush through Masonry with headlong speed. His address shows the Royal Craft in Iowa to be in a very flourishing condition.

He made the following interesting decisions, and reports them in his address, as follows:

"*Question.* The principal question I have been asked is: Can a brother who has been elected, and perhaps received a portion of the degrees of the Chapter, be stopped by a Companion in good standing who was not present at the election, and can this be done by objection openly in Chapter or privately to the High Priest, or must charges be preferred?

"*Answer.* I have unhesitatingly answered that, an objection being made by a Companion in good standing, at any time during the progress up to the R. A. degrees, must be respected, and the Companion who makes it can not be obliged to give his reasons or to prefer charges.

"I have taken considerable pains to investigate this matter, and I cannot find the contrary doctrine held anywhere excepting in New Jersey. For example, the Grand Master of New York, in his address, says that, although only one ballot is had for the three degrees, a candidate, if elected, can be stopped, or a new ballot demanded, and the brother making the objection

cannot be asked his motives or reasons, and adds, that he presumes it is unnecessary to reaffirm so plain and well established a Masonic rule. In the case which caused the most feeling the brother objected to had received no degrees, and it was insisted that the Companion objecting should prefer charges. I answer: Where would he prefer them? Certainly, not in the Chapter, for the brother did not belong there, and could not there be tried, and the Chapter could not compel charges to be made in the Lodge, for they had no jurisdiction over it.

"All this difficulty arises from the mistaken idea, which seems to be increasing, that outsiders have some sort of *quasi* rights in Masonic bodies. The rule, that the member is *inside* and has *control of the position*, is at the foundation of all Masonic law, and Masonic law is for the benefit of the member, and not for the profane, at least so far as admission is concerned, and, although it may sometimes work injustice, to hold otherwise would be far worse.

"*Ques.* Should a High Priest when re-elected High Priest, but not his own successor, be reinstalled?

"*Ans.* He should; and it would be better to do so when he is his own successor, as otherwise he holds over instead of holding by re-election.

"*Ques.* Can a High Priest be elected from the floor?

"*Ans.* He can.

"It came to my knowledge in July that a certain Companion, a member of a Chapter in Wisconsin, had displayed in front of his place of business and suspended across the sidewalk a huge Keystone, with the circle and letters, and in the centre thereof, his advertisement. Believing this to be an act of *gross unmasonic* conduct, and one that requires the attention of somebody, I assumed the responsibility of writing the Companion and stating my opinion thereof, and requesting him to forthwith remove the same, and also directed the High Priest of the Chapter in whose jurisdiction he resided, that in case it was not removed, he should prefer charges against the Companion, and notify the Chapter in Wisconsin of their action. I am pleased to say that this was not necessary, as the emblem was removed. It may be that in so doing I exceeded the powers and duties of my office. If so, I confess my wrong-doing, but if not, and if you believe that the emblems of our Order and the fraternal feelings of our Craft are not to be used as a means of pecuniary benefit, I would be pleased to have you pass a resolution concerning that sort of exhibition, the same as has been already done by the Grand Lodge."

The Grand Chapter subsequently passed a resolution prohibiting Masonic advertising in the manner just described, and very properly abated that nuisance in Iowa.

If Grand High Priest Wright would abate another nuisance he will be a public benefactor, and that is, adding to his name as Grand High Priest of a Grand Chapter the thirty-second degree. He advertises his Scotch Rite degrees same as the other man did his Keystone. One is no worse than the other. Both are in exceeding bad taste, to use no harsher term.

Companion Langridge, in his report on Foreign Correspondence, hits this detestable practice as follows in reviewing Missouri:

"Companion Gouley is particularly 'down' on Grand Chapter officers putting 32d and 33d 'and sich' after their names, seeming to consider it one of the unpardonable sins. For our own part we have an opinion that it is simply a matter of taste. This writer has a drawer partly filled with papers and parchments showing that he has a right to add these 'curlyques,' as Companion G. calls them, as well as others, but he does not use them because he can't get rid of the idea that people would smile at his vanity if he paraded them on every occasion. One might as well mount jewels enough when about his daily business to look like a pawn-broker's window, as to attach 'A. M.' or 'LL. D.' or 'B. A.' or 'P. G. H. P.' or 'Gen.' or '32,' or *other* 'sacred' or 'cabalistic' alphabetical adornments to his name every time he has occasion to sign it. It affords some amusement to see such occasionally, but it becomes like 'vinegar on nitre' after a while. Yet it is as harmless an amusement as the wearing of huge squares and compasses, and all that kind of jim-crackery, which one sometimes meets on newly-made brethren, and only in rare instances strikes deep enough to last long; and it is a great waste of labor for any one to vex his soul over such exhibitions. Let them alone, Companion G., they will get tired of the fashion after a while."

This advice comes gracefully from good Scotch Rite authority, as Companion Langridge is Grand R. and K. of Seals and A. of the Grand Consistory of Iowa.

Companion Langridge, as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented his report, reviewing thirty-one Grand Chapters, ours among the rest. It is in many respects the best and most comprehensive report made by any committee in 1869, and reflects much credit on the author.

His review of our Grand Chapter difficulties we will pass over, as they are now buried.

He has the following sensible remarks about our report for 1868, from the Committee on Jurisprudence:

"The question of physical disability came before the Grand Chapter, and was referred to and fully discussed by a committee, of which Companion N. P. Chipman (formerly of Iowa) was chairman, without, however, arriving at any very decided opinion, the committee, like Wouter von Twiller, finding that 'a good deal may be said on both sides.' The gist of the opinion appears to be 'to receive those who are shown to be capable of performing the work, whatever their physical defects.'

"It has been held by some, and the expression has been made, rather flipantly, it seems to us, that we cannot confer any of the grades of Masonry on 'fractional men.' We consider the expression improper and unkind, and the decision as no decision at all, or if any, a wrong one. The best man and most devoted Mason may be unfortunate, and innocently, through his misfortune, become a hideous and revolting 'fractional man,' bearing about as long as he lives the knowledge that he is thus, while another, a very Antonous in form and feature, may be a scab on creation, and a disgrace to humanity. There is such a thing as drawing a good rule too tight, and we agree with Companion Chipman to a very great extent—holding that the rule of the Grand Lodge of Iowa is the only correct one: That no man should be made

a Mason or advanced afterwards who is not capable, physically and mentally, of learning and communicating the ritual of Masonry in all its parts. If he can do this, he is perfect enough; if not, not. The rule is very simple, very easy of comprehension, and very easily remembered."

The following is the report of the Iowa Committee on Jurisprudence, which has caused such a stir all over the country in regard to the General Grand Chapter:

"Companion Guilbert, from the Committee on Jurisprudence, presented the following report of that committee, which was adopted:

"To the M. E., the Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa:

"Your Committee on Jurisprudence beg leave to report as follows: The following questions have been submitted to us, viz:

"1. The resolution of Companion Langridge, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence:

"Resolved, That the action of the Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa, had at the Grand Annual Convocation of 1860 (*Transactions*, vol. 1, page 259), whereby this Grand Chapter is 'forever absolved from all connection with' the General Grand Chapter be, and the same is hereby rescinded, and this Grand Chapter restored to its position in said General Grand Chapter.

"Resolved, That the O. B. of allegiance to the General Grand Chapter be hereafter administered to candidates receiving the Royal Arch degree.

"The personal predilections of your committee are not in this matter to be allowed to sway them in the expression of their opinion on a plain question of law and usage. Therefore, the fact that the General Grand Chapter is a disgrace to the name it bears, because it so persistently 'keeps the word of promise to the ear, and breaks it to the hope,' has not influenced us in the report we now submit.

"It must be conceded that the edict of withdrawal passed by this Grand Chapter in 1860 was irregular. To be sure, the General Grand Chapter had emasculated itself by its action of 1859, at Chicago, and had virtually, but not actually, absolved us from our allegiance to that body, still we are free to confess, from a careful examination of the legal aspects of the transaction, that we violated our O. B. in thus acting. That O. B., unfortunately, is so explicit 'that he who runs may read' it. We cannot legislate it away, nor can we, by our own act, say how much or how little of it we will keep and perform. Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the resolutions, and cannot forbear to express the hope that the other seceding Grand Chapters will conclude to join us in an attempt, first, to galvanize the incapable General Grand Body into some semblance of life, or failing that—which, it seems to us, would require miraculous powers to perform—second, to assist us in procuring a dissolution of the General Grand Body."

It will be seen that Iowa has gone back to the fold of the General Grand Chapter for the sole purpose of attempting to dissolve this General Grand humbug.

She avows her intention to cause the death of this "manufactory of high-sounding titles" when it meets in Baltimore next September.

Iowa will skirmish on the picket line, with scalping-knife and tomahawk,

while our Southern Grand Chapters will command the heavy artillery in the rear with their big guns. The Hawk-Eyes will lead a handsome charge, with such men as Langridge, Guilbert, Parvin, and Hartsock in command. Such men as John L. Lewis, James M. Austin, etc., may get wounded in the battle, in which case Dr. Corson, of New Jersey, will be obliged to dress their wounds with a weak solution of doggerel poetry, that will gangrene any wound at a distance of forty rods.

In his review of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter Companion Langridge draws up an indictment against that body, that every Royal Arch Mason in the United States ought to read. He objects to the General Grand Chapter—

"1. Because it is an anomaly. It either has no powers or obtains them by dividing and lessening those of the State Grand Chapters, who would gain both in dignity and usefulness if left, like Grand Lodges, to rule themselves.

"2. Because it is useless, having shorn itself of all power, and there being no disposition on the part of the majority to restore the strength laid down at Chicago.

"3. Because it is dangerous, not in the powers it possesses, but because its presiding officers are constantly liable to overrate their importance, and intentionally or otherwise exercise unconstitutional powers, which, as in the cases of Michigan and the late contest between the Grand Chapters of Maryland and the District of Columbia, set the fraternity by the ears and engender bad blood and confusion.

"4. As a Court of Appeals it is useless. Meeting so seldom, and being so purely an ornamental affair, we do not know of a single case ever referred to it for arbitrament by State Grand Chapters, (unless the Maryland and District of Columbia case be pressed in as one. If so, its decision is of a character sufficient to seal its condemnation.) In the settlement of differences they are practically independent, arranging all differences directly or through Masonic public opinion as expressed by the various Committees on Foreign Correspondence.

"5. For the extension of the American system of Royal Arch Masonry, it is useless also, because the Royal Arch Masons in the unoccupied territory, were it not in existence, would follow the practice of Blue Masonry, and obtain charters and be ruled by the bodies toward which their early associations draw them, until they could obtain the number of Chapters necessary to form an independent Grand Chapter.

"6. To procure and preserve uniformity of work it is also useless, as the present condition of the ritual of Royal Arch Masonry throughout the country proves. It is well known and universally admitted that so far as its efforts, or rather want of effort, have reached, there is no pretense of uniformity, and the only hope for it lies in the direction of individual effort operating upon single State Grand Chapters and individual Chapters, recommending itself by intrinsic excellence and not relying on distinguished Masonic names or high coercive authority.

"For these reasons, and various others, we are opposed to any continuance of the General Grand Chapter longer than may be necessary to quietly bury it and divide its estate—though having stripped itself already, what is left of it will hardly be worth the cost of taking out letters of administration.

"With this view, and for this purpose, we would prefer that this Grand Chapter and all the others who have withdrawn from it rescind their acts of withdrawal and send delegates to the Triennial Convocation in 1871, instructed to labor and vote unreservedly and without intermission for its disbandment."

KANSAS.

The Fifth Annual Convocation was held at Leavenworth, October 19, 1869, sixteen Chapters being represented. Dispensations were granted the preceding year to five new Chapters, and prosperity marks the progress of Capitular Masonry in Kansas.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported a resolution prohibiting the use of substitutes in conferring the R. A. Degree, and so this young and growing Grand Chapter starts out fresh on the road in the right direction.

Grand High Priest Bassett delivered a very eloquent and sensible address, full of zeal and the true spirit of Masonry. He advises the G. G. Chapter of the United States to cause a uniformity of work to be adopted in all the Grand Chapters. Grand High Priest Bassett should know that this is simply impossible. The G. G. Chapter appointed a committee in 1859 to do this, the Committee met in 1860 in this city; the mountain labored and brought forth a mouse. No attention was paid to their recommendations by the different Grand Chapters, and the work the committee adopted is not used now in this city, and in no State except Minnesota.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was made by Grand Secretary Carr, and is very able, fraternal, and judicious.

He says of our report for 1868:

"The Report on Correspondence is an able one, and was presented by Companion J. Edwin Mason, and signed by the committee. We are disposed to give Companion Mason the credit of its authorship, and trust we will hear more of him. Twenty-eight Chapters are noticed in the report—but Kansas not one of the number. Companion Mason, however, has heard of us, and extends a fraternal grip."

KENTUCKY.

Annual Convocation at Louisville, October 18, 1869, eighty-four Chapters being represented. There are 3,472 Royal Arch Masons in the State, and 366 exalted the past year. Grand High Priest Hawkins gave a short practical address, in which he makes the following sensible remarks:

"The past year has been a quiet one with us—nothing having occurred to mar our tranquility, and the Order in this State is, as far as I can learn, in a prosperous condition. The reports will, I think, show a falling off from last year's returns, which, I trust, signifies that the Companions have begun to appreciate Capitular Masonry and do not believe that *any and every one* is fitted to become a Companion. Let us be still more careful, and let no petition be acted on without the most thorough scrutiny, and admit none but such as may stand the test of the Grand Overseer's Square. While such are our members, we may *expect* to be united."

Companion Henderson presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is brief and comprehensive. He reviews our proceedings for 1868 in a courteous and fraternal manner.

Kentucky was one of the first States to extend recognition to our Grand Chapter, and we can never forget this act of kindness. And the writer can never forget his Masonic friends in Louisville, Lexington, and Paris, who were so courteous and *Masonic* while residing there temporarily some years ago. There is no spot on the face of the earth where Masons more truly live up to their obligations than in Kentucky. They are refined and educated men, and are an honor to Capitular Masonry.

As an instance of the intelligence of the Royal Craft in Kentucky, we would say that they held no allegiance to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and for many years have denounced this body as the author of all the trouble and dissensions we ever had in Royal Arch Masonry in America.

Grand Secretary Swigert wrote us a letter in 1867, advising us to never acknowledge the General Grand Chapter, which is a powerful argument on the subject, and first opened our eyes, so we beheld the question in its true and proper light.

On the 19th of November we received the proceedings of the Annual Convocation, held at Louisville, October 20, 1870, which is less than a month for printing and sending us the pamphlet of 126 pages. Grand Secretary Swigert can stand at the head for the despatch of business, surely.

The printing is shocking, however, and several pages quite difficult to read. Printers pi has been made of some parts of it, and the review of Vermont and Nova Scotia sandwiched together in a laughable manner. The "Kentucky Freemason" is responsible for the printing, which we declare to be anything but "good work, square work," &c.

Eighty-four Chapters were represented of the 94 Chapters in the State. Total membership, 3,397, exaltations, 379.

Grand High Priest delivered a short address.

Rev. Companion H. A. M. Henderson presented the report on Foreign Correspondence. His review of our Grand Chapter is not courteous or fraternal. His remarks in reference to our late Grand High Priest B. B. French two months after his death, are unmasonic to the last degree. We regret to see a slur aimed at the illustrious dead.

LOUISIANA.

The Twenty-third Annual Convocation was held at New Orleans, February 15th and 16th, 1870.

Grand High Priest Todd delivered an address, in which he congratulated the Craft that peace and harmony prevailed everywhere, even in Maryland and the District of Columbia. He alludes to our difficulties here and seems delighted that they are settled. If he had been as much delighted at St. Louis in 1868, we would have had less trouble with him in the General Grand Chapter, when the question came up in regard to our recognition, against which he fought with unscrupulous zeal.

In 1869 a committee was appointed in this Grand Chapter to report in re-

ference to severing its connection with the General Grand Chapter in 1870. There was a majority and minority report presented, signed by three and two Companions. The majority report is as follows:

"To the M. E. Grand Chapter of Louisiana:

"The undersigned, of the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, to whom was referred at the last Convocation the resolution offered by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, looking to the dissolution of the General Grand Chapter and the withdrawal of this Grand Chapter from its control, have given the subject due consideration, and cannot bring themselves to recommend the adoption of the resolution.

"The facts are most certainly as stated in the report. The attempt was made in Hartford, in 1856, by resolves fixing its early history, to destroy the efficiency of the General Grand Chapter. This failing, the amendments were proposed to the constitution, which being adopted at Chicago, under threats, finally so emasculated the power of the General Grand Chapter as to detract very much from its active usefulness. But we do not therefore conclude that its future is so entirely barren of hope as to warrant or call for its dissolution or to justify our withdrawal therefrom, although at its last session the Companions present at St. Louis refused to restore its constitution to something like its former efficiency.

"Louisiana has ever stood by the General Grand Chapter and has reason to be proud of her record in this respect; and your committee do not wish to detract from her honor in this regard by aiding in the actual accomplishment of the designs of those who in 1856 and 1859 did their best to destroy the General Grand Chapter. We can perceive no possible detriment to the Craft in its perpetual existence. We believe that all fears of such a result are groundless; while on the other hand we see much good every way to result from keeping alive the General Grand Chapter, if for nothing more, for the purpose of having a place or point at which the chiefs of Royal Arch Masonry may triennially meet to hold social, if not Masonic, intercourse with each other. But we do not believe that its sphere of usefulness is by any means thus limited, and must therefore report against the adoption of the resolution."

It will be seen by this report that there is not a single argument offered in favor of this body styling itself the General Grand Chapter of the United States. The report is barren of reasons for continuing to bow down and worship this self-emasculated body, shorn of all its power, and standing forth a naked monument of the folly of a few ambitious Companions, eager to bear some high sounding title.

'They forgot that,—

"Pigmies are pigmies still, though perched on Alps,"

and the chairman of that committee, Companion Fellows, who has been an officer of the General Grand Chapter, can be in better business than reporting such resolutions. He had better swim with the current in the other direction. The opinion of Royal Arch Masons all over our country is growing strong against the General Grand Chapter.

The minority report is a capital synopsis of this whole question. It is so important that we copy it, as follows:

*"To the M. E. Grand High Priest and Companions
of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana :*

"Your committee, appointed at the last Grand Convocation as the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, and to whom was referred the following resolution offered by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, '3. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, the organization known as the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States of America has become useless, may become dangerous, and ought to cease to exist. That our representatives at the next Grand Convocation of said General Grand Chapter be, and they are hereby, instructed to propose and advocate the adoption of resolutions providing for the total extinction of said General Grand Chapter; and that in the event of the non-passage of said resolutions, then that our said representatives request the release of this Grand Chapter from all her obligations to and connection with said General Grand Chapter,' respectfully report :

"That they have carefully examined the same, and the facts and conclusions of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence on which it is based, find them sound, and fully concur therein. Since our last Grand Convocation the same state of affairs exist as then between the Grand Chapters of the District of Columbia and the Grand Chapters of Maryland and the District of Columbia, giving further confirmation of the pernicious effect of the interference of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in the concerns of our Companions of those jurisdictions, and showing the utter inability of the National Body to enforce its own decrees, even by moral power. We find, moreover, that the General Grand High Priest has assumed to establish a new Grand Chapter in the State of Delaware, upon his own *ipse dixit* that the one formerly existing in that State had gone out of existence, a course that may be provocative of further trouble, and affording us another warning that there is at least a probability of the time arriving when the same unlawful hand may be thrust into our own affairs.

"During the past year, we are officially informed that the Grand Chapter of Iowa has returned to her allegiance to the General Grand Chapter, and it may be argued that this fact betokens a return of others, and a possible renewal of the long lost vitality of the National Grand Body. We have not the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Iowa before us, and cannot state the causes which led her to the action referred to; but we have a communication from Comp. W. B. Langridge, Grand Secretary of Iowa, on the subject, printed in the May number of the *Evergreen* of last year, in which he advocates the return of his Grand Chapter, but only upon the ground that it had never lawfully seceded, owing to certain regulations of its own constitution, and that it ought to return, in order to advocate, within the body of the General Grand Chapter itself, its immediate dissolution for the benefit of Royal Arch Masonry generally. He says :

"Therefore, I think there is good ground to believe that the Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa is yet a member of the General Grand Chapter; that she has not withdrawn from that respectable body; and that, therefore, the most consistent and sensible thing she could do in that connection would be to resume her position and labor in the General Grand Chapter, with a power and influence she cannot have out of it, for its disbandment.

'I am opposed to allowing the General Grand Chapter one moment's longer life than may be necessary to accomplish its end, as I am entirely convinced that it is an utterly useless, expensive, and inefficient body, accomplishing nothing at its meetings, or so little as to show its needlessness, and only effective during its vacations in producing discord and disturbance.

* * * * *

'So we had better reverse our action and then determinedly, with those other thoughtful Masons who have long since wished it decently dead and buried, work earnestly and persistently within it for its destruction and the enfranchisement of the Grand Chapters from its clinging but unwelcome embrace.'

"We heartily concur with these views of our eminent Companion of Iowa, endorsing as they do those of our own committee who presented the resolution under consideration, and we believe that those views are what determined the action of the Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa.

"Your committee are satisfied that the General Grand Chapter has long ceased to have a mission; that it is incompetent for good, and yet still dangerous; that State Grand Chapters should be supreme in name as well as in fact; that the time must soon arrive when additional taxation of State Grand Chapters will be necessary for the support of the useless National Body; and, finally, that the nearer the government of Royal Arch Masonry is assimilated to that of the Blue Lodges in this country, the greater will be its peace and prosperity, and therefore recommend the adoption of the resolution.

"Fraternally submitted.

"H. P. BUCKLEY,

"JOHN A. STEVENSON.

"A motion was made to receive both reports, and to adopt the majority report.

"E. Comp. Jos. P. Hornor called for a vote by Chapters; the same was ordered, and the resolution to adopt the majority report was adopted by the following vote, viz:

"Ayes—Grand High Priest, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, R. A. Captain, Grand Master 2d Veil, Grand Master 1st Veil, Chaplain, P. G. H. P. J. Q. A. Fellows, P. D. G. H. P. J. C. Gordy—Nos. 1, 2, 10, 12, 21, 28, 30, 32—33 votes.

"Nays—Grand King, Captain of the Host, Grand Master 3d Veil—Nos. 2, 4, 11, 15, 17, 29—20 votes."

We find the following resolution published by the Grand Chapter:

"Resolved, That all Masonic correspondence and fraternal relations between the M. E. Grand R. A. Chapter of the State of Louisiana and the Grand Orient of France cease and be discontinued, and no Mason holding allegiance to that Grand Body be recognized as such in this jurisdiction.

"Adopted February 10, 1869."

We sympathize wholly with Louisiana in this controversy, and feel certain that the Grand Orient of France will withdraw her assumed power over the territorial jurisdiction of Louisiana.

When the G. G. Chapter assumed to take control of Potomac Chapter in this District she did precisely what the Grand Orient of France did in char-

tering different Masonic bodies in New Orleans. The invasion of territorial rights in the one case is precisely like the other.

The whole nation sympathized with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and the G. G. Chapter, through G. G. H. P. Austin has been compelled, by force of public sentiment, to back down from this position. All Royal Arch Masons sympathize with Louisiana, and the Grand Orient of France must back down.

Comp. Joseph P. Hornor presented the report on Foreign Correspondence. It is well written and courteous, though too personal in a few instances. He has the following good hit at those Companions who parade their titles outside of Royal Arch Masonry in every Masonic office they happen to hold :

"But we regret to see that he, too, (the Grand Secretary of Georgia,) by the addition of 32 to his name, is ashamed of the proper rank in our Chapters. Ancient Craft Masonry needs no adornment; her 'works do testify' for her, and we protest against the introduction of this foreign rank into her temples.

"Keep it up in that style, Companion, until we *make* them ashamed; hold them up to their brethren as ridiculous, and as laughing stocks, and these excrescences will have to be discarded; public opinion is the only cure for such a disease, and the time is rapidly approaching when all American Grand Bodies of Ancient Craft Masonry will forbid such distinctions, and prohibit their Grand Secretaries from parading them or their business titles (advertisements) in their official proceedings, both written and printed."

We notice that the Grand Secretary of Louisiana is careful to sign himself "J. C. Batchelor, M. D." We, therefore, recommend to Comp. Hornor that, in canterizing "excrescences," he begin at home. If he wants any help, let him call on his brother quill-drivers, who will prescribe a specific. As we happen to possess a sheepskin, such as makes Grand Secretary Batchelor an M. D., we will write a prescription that will cure this attack of tenesmus.

MAINE.

Annual Convocation held at Portland, May 3, 1870, thirty-two Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Jos. Pearson Gill delivered an exceedingly interesting address, full of the spirit of Masonry. His visits over the State to the different Chapters show how hard he had worked the preceding year. The zeal shown in this matter might be emulated by other Grand High Priests. Addresses full of interesting data about their own jurisdiction, are always valuable to the Royal Craft, and even abroad are more eagerly read, than the whining cant and senseless platitudes, copied from some other Grand High Priest's address, equally stupid.

As Maine prohibits the use of substitutes in conferring the Royal Arch degree, a very interesting question arose on the subject, which the Grand High Priest alluded to, as follows :

"There is a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in St. Stephens, N. B., opposite the town of Calais in this State, working under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland. By the regulations of that Grand Chapter

only two actual candidates are allowed in the Royal Arch degree, the place of the third being filled by the Principal Sojourner, who appears in the same clothing. The members of that Chapter and those of the Chapter in Calais, have been always in the habit of exchanging visits. Since the adoption of the standing regulations last May in regard to substitutes, the question has arisen as to the lawfulness of fraternizing with them. This regulation has given rise to a doubt whether those exalted in that Chapter are regularly made R. A. Masons, according to our view of the matter, and whether they should be allowed to visit in any of our Chapters; and even if this point is not disputed, and they are allowed to visit us, the further question still remains, whether we can visit them under our obligations, 'not to be present, &c.' I submit these questions for the decision of the Grand Chapter. I understand that the Grand Chapter of Maine has never recognized, by any act of its own, the Grand Chapter of Scotland. The time has now arrived when action should be taken in regard to such recognition or non-recognition, in order to a determination of the question proposed."

We have read with great pleasure the report on Foreign Correspondence made as usual by Companion J. H. Drummond. It is one of the very best we peruse annually, and we sit down to read it with pleasant anticipations, and are never disappointed.

He rejoices over our troubles here being ended, and copies a portion of our report on Maryland for 1869. His friendship for our Grand Chapter has always been sincere; and we are indebted to him for many acts of kindness. We should all be delighted to welcome him in the National Capital.

He says of our Grand Chapter:

"The Grand Chapter prohibited the use of substitutes; but an examination of the returns show that three of the six Chapters had used them within the preceding year."

Very true, but they were all used previous to the passage of that standing resolution prohibiting their use, November 8, 1869. Chapters here borrow and lend candidates to make a trio for the Royal Arch degree between different Chapters, but do not now use substitutes.

We have not space to discuss the issues he raises about the General Grand Chapter, that is now a subject of little interest to us here.

We are again obliged to Companion Drummond for the excellent tables we copy below:

GRAND CHAPTERS.	No. of Subordinates.	Members.	Exaltations.	Admissions & Restorations.	Dismissals.	Expulsions.	Suspensions.	Susp. for non- payment dues.	Deaths.	Rejections.
Alabama ..	66	2327	148	71	148	5	4	135	38	13
Arkansas.....	49	1304	138	34	72	2	3	35	19	...
California	35	1546	206	52	125	0	9	26	11	11
Canada	35	1433	236	8	63	0	28	...	9	...
Connecticut	27	3415	287	9	17	2	1	0	36	...
Delaware	4	165	47	1	4	0	1	0	1	...
District of Columbia.....	7	773	138	20	51	0	0	17	5	4
Florida	16	492	45	5	24	0	0	...	11	...
Georgia	56	2098	172	42	54	2	12	...	18	7
Illinois	141	7659	905	101	310	12	40	...	71	...
Indiana.....	73	3018	407	49	87	8	28	...	34	...
Iowa	51	2124	380	29	70	4	4	21	7	...
Kansas.....	10	315	59	12	16	0	2	11	4	7
Kentucky	92	3472	366	47	136	9	68	...	37	...
Louisiana.....	25	1510	143	30	30	0	2	10	33	6
Maryland, &c.....	10	940	121	10	19	3	3	12	11	...
Massachusetts.....	43	5247	519	...	140	...	6	...	38	...
Maine	33	2790	318	...	38	1	0	0	20	18
Michigan	68	4995	475	84	115	6	46	...	34	87
Minnesota.....	17	...	144	[No members.]						
Mississippi	76	2565	201	178	156	4	...	203	49	...
Missouri	54	2411	493	88	99	0	13	...	18	32
Nebraska	5	202	24	4	5	0	0	0	0	...
New Hampshire.....	16	1541	199	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Jersey.....	22	1602	258	7	51	1	21	8	18	...
New York.....	171	14401	2148	140	429	2	5	334	133	...
North Carolina.....	15	655	19	11	33	1	1	1	10	0
Nova Scotia.....	5	165	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ohio	114	5945	802	35	275	15	2	136	47	...
Oregon.....	5	161	9	2	7	0	0	2	4	...
Pennsylvania*.....	68	6318	849	63	199	...	77	...	...	38
Rhode Island.....	9	1237	161	3	...	2	0	...	18	29
South Carolina.....	24	776	127	8	27	0	4	25	6	...
Tennessee	94	3912	424	45	154	5	46	...	46	...
Texas.....	95	3218	232	92	153	8	...	231	67	...
Vermont.....	23	1507	164	...	16	1	2	...	20	...
Virginia.....	37	1702	...	...	...	2	...	65	36	...
Wisconsin.....	38	2298	169	20	71	1	24	...	21	38
Total,	1729	96,275	10,433	1301	3214	96	451	1272	930	290

*The dismissals include deaths: the suspensions include expulsions; there are also three Mark Lodges in Philadelphia with an aggregate membership of 2,649.

"We append a comparative statement of the statistics for three years.

	1870. Gr. Chapters.	1870. Totals.	1869. Gr. Chapters.	1869. Totals.	1868. Gr Chapters.	1868. Totals.
Members,	37	96,275	36	87,231	34	75,485
Exaltations,	36	10,433	34	12,550	33	11,959
Admissions, &c.,	33	1,301	28	1,273	25	1,234
Dismissions,	31	3,214	30	2,763	29	2,617
Expulsions,	32	96	29	82	28	73
Suspensions,	32	451	28	304	29	250
Exclusions,	23	1,272	18	1,353	18	1,288
Deaths,	34	930	32	936	31	792

"About sixty Chapters fail to make returns: fourteen in Arkansas; four in Florida; four in Georgia; four in Kentucky; seven in Massachusetts; one in Michigan; one in Missouri; three in Ohio; twenty-three in Texas; two in Wisconsin; and several in Virginia. Some of those in Texas have surrendered their charters we think, and therefore, the number above given is too large.

MARYLAND.

The official copy of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter came to us this year from our *alma mater* in Capitular Masonry, like the blessing given by the mother to her child. With feelings of sincere affection and fraternal esteem we accept them, and begin anew the official correspondence that has been unhappily severed through the dark days of adversity through which we have passed. When we were united, and our Grand Chapter met alternately in Baltimore and Washington, we mingled our annual congratulations together, and in the most fraternal manner, at Convocations and at banquets, assured each other of our mutual esteem and good will. Let us return to the same endearing course of conduct again, and take up the silver cord as though it had never been broken.

All over the world, where Capitular Masonry exists, our "late onpleasantness" seems to have become a household word. It has been magnified abroad until the troubles are believed to be greater than they really are. Our good Companions abroad actually think that the pathetic fate of the Kilkenny cats might be applied to our cases.

"There once was two cats in Kilkenny,
And each thought there was one cat too many;
So they quarreled and fit,
And they gouged, and they bit,
Till, excepting their nails,
And the tips of their tails,
Instead of two cats, there warn't any."

This is not the situation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, nor that of the District of Columbia, and we wish our Companions abroad would take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

All the facts concerning the union of sentiment once severed, and the entire

history of the happy overture made to us by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and so warmly accepted by our Grand Chapter, appear in the supplement to our report on Maryland last year, written after official information was received, and therefore need not now be repeated. All this portion of the proceedings of Maryland for 1869 we will pass over.

In the address of Grand High Priest Obr we find the following excellent reference to the Council degrees being conferred in Chapters; and sound advice given, which, we trust, the Grand Chapter will heed:

"The subject of the Council degrees is also considerably discussed, and great contrariety of practice prevails. In most of the States the Royal and Select Masters' degrees are not recognized by the Grand Chapter, but are under the jurisdiction of Grand Councils, and controlled by them. These degrees are not recognized in the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, neither are they named in any of our charters. Under what authority and by what right, then, are they conferred by our Chapter? The absurdity of our position must become apparent, after very slight reflection, on this question. It is our duty to relieve ourselves from so questionable a practice."

We sincerely hope and trust that the committee that subsequently reported in favor of separating the Council degrees from the Chapter, and were ordered to make a final report at the Annual Convocation of 1870, will make this much needed reform.

Let these degrees be severed from the Chapters in Maryland, and then Virginia will be the only State, or place on earth, where the degrees of Royal and Select Master are conferred in *Chapters*.

We inherited this disease from Maryland, and formerly conferred the Council degrees in Chapters here in the District of Columbia, but when our Grand Chapter was formed they were struck off, and have never been conferred in Chapters in Washington since May, 1867. A flourishing Council has been formed in this city under the authority of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, where the Select, Royal, and Super-Excellent Master's degrees are now properly conferred.

Companion Ezra L. Stevens presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-five Grand Chapters, but ours was not among the number. He states that the reports and proceedings of several of these he had not received, yet he reviewed them from other Grand Chapter proceedings.

It will be gratifying to the Companions in the District of Columbia to know that Companion Stevens, whom they remember so well as a Mason in Washington up to 1868, wrote the following sensible advice to the Companions of Maryland in closing his report on Foreign Correspondence:

"It is alleged, and with truth, too, in many of the reports, that our difficulties in connection with the District question, form the only serious element of discord in Capitular Masonry, and we are asked by those, too, who have stood by us through all these unfortunate difficulties, and who defended us in the General Grand Chapter, to lay aside all prejudice and feeling, and, like true Masons, settle this vexed question on an enduring, harmonious basis.

"It cannot be denied, Companions, that all our sister Grand Chapters, without exception, now recognize the Grand Chapter of the District of Colum-

bia. While many of them admit that there was an unwarranted stretch of power exercised on the part of the General Grand Chapter in the attempt made at St. Louis to settle the question, and many also concede the fact that Maryland has been badly treated, yet all accept of the situation, and in a spirit of fraternal kindness ask this Grand Chapter to do so likewise.

"Our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, in the able report which he made on correspondence to this Grand Body at its last Annual Convocation, admits that '*blunders*' were made on our part when a separation of the jurisdiction was attempted to be made, which fact should not now be overlooked. It should, at the present time, have its due weight in adjusting these difficulties."

MASSACHUSETTS.

The proceedings of several Convocations, from March to December, 1869, come to hand printed on such snowy paper, with such exquisite neatness, that they seem to say to their neighbors, while lying in a pile before us, "I am holier than thou." The typographical excellence is only exceeded by the careful and systematic manner in which the proceedings are prepared for publication.

Grand High Priest Chickering departed from the example of some of his predecessors by delivering an address to the Royal Craft at the Annual Convocation in December. Massachusetts shuts her teeth against all innovations in Masonry, and it is a query whether this custom will be considered an innovation.

There are forty-three Chapters in Massachusetts with a membership of 5,247; also, 519 exaltations the past year.

The "minister plenipotentiary system" was thoroughly exploded by the following report, which was adopted:

"The committee to whom was referred the expediency of appointing Companions, members of other Grand Chapters of the United States, to represent this Grand Chapter in their several State Grand Chapters, have considered the matter, and respectfully report that it has been the usage of the several State Grand Chapters to send a printed copy of their doings from year to year to their sister Grand Chapters; and inasmuch as all the State Grand Chapters are subordinate to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, your committee do not think it wise to appoint representatives, members of other State Grand Chapters, to represent this Grand Chapter in said Grand Chapters."

Reverend Companion John W. Dadmun offered a resolution at the Annual Convocation in December, formally recognizing our Grand Chapter, which was passed unanimously. This is only three years behind other Grand Chapters in the matter of recognition, and comes to hand now like a last year's almanac. We don't like to say that they are slow in Masonry in this ancient Commonwealth, or that they wish to return to the days of stage coaches and tallow candles, but they did forget all about our little seven-by-nine District of Columbia until a very late day.

Our old friend, Reverend Companion John W. Dadmun, presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Chapters, ours included, in such a glowing and fraternal manner that

it seems like being at a Methodist "love feast" to read the report. Companion Dadmun will be remembered by the Royal Craft of Washington as the genial and talented Eminent Commander of De Molay Commandery in 1867, when our Commanderies visited Boston to assist in dedicating their new Temple. His subsequent visit to Washington gave our Companions here an opportunity to take his warm hand and look into his smiling face.

MICHIGAN.

The Twenty-first Annual Convocation was held at Detroit, January 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1870. There are sixty-eight Chapters in Michigan, and it is a remarkable fact that all but one had representatives present at this Annual Convocation. The proceedings are beautifully printed on tinted paper, with a typographical appearance unequaled in all those before us.

Grand High Priest Webber gives the following gratifying summary of Capitular Masonry in the Peninsular State:

"At the last Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, as shown by the reports then presented, there were four thousand four hundred and eighty-seven Royal Arch Masons holding membership in this jurisdiction. The number at the present time must exceed five thousand. Ten years ago the number was only one thousand and eighty. Five years ago the number was two thousand and seventy-two. A review of the rate of increase in members shows great prosperity."

He gives in his address the following sensible language about our Grand Chapter, which is a severe thrust at Companion Coffinberry, who caused all the trouble between us and Michigan:

"At the last Convocation of this Grand Body a report was made by a committee of distinguished Companions relative to the troubles growing out of the conflict between the Grand Chapters of Maryland and District of Columbia, and the action taken by the General Grand Chapter thereon. That report was made the special order for this Convocation, and will demand your attention. This subject has been prolific of difficulty, and many reach conclusions which conflict with those of others having equal opportunities to know the facts and the law. It was enacted as law by an ancient sage that should any one assume to act as judge, and to decide a cause without first fully understanding the facts of the case, he should suffer death. Had such a regulation been enforced on those who have acted as judges upon this question, it might have proved fatal to many whom Masons delight to honor, who have received and acted on statements believed to be true, but in fact colored and distorted by the prejudiced views of those who communicated them. When a dispute arises and warm feelings are engendered, it is very difficult for persons with only human capacity to obtain such a knowledge of facts as to justify them in saying they *know* them to be true. Nothing will tend so much to harmony as to delay action until you *all* know the facts, when, doubtless, your conclusion will agree with that of all others who decide on *like* knowledge. There is not so much difference in the standard of law or morals as in the view taken of facts. I trust that any action this Grand Chapter may take will be upon due deliberation, that we may not be compelled to retrace our steps."

After the reading of the Grand High Priest's address, Companion Sawyer moved to take from the table the special order on the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which motion prevailed. Whereupon he offered the following resolution as a substitute for those under consideration, which was adopted :

"Resolved, That the 'Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Michigan' do hereby acknowledge and recognize 'The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia,' and we do cordially extend to the said Grand Chapter the right hand of fellowship, and receive her as a beloved member of the great American family of Royal Arch Masons."

As Michigan is the only State, except Maryland, that took action *by a vote of the Grand Chapter* against recognizing our Grand Chapter, it is the only one where it has become necessary to revoke its former vote of non-recognition.

We accept the fraternal greeting she offers us in the same spirit in which it is tendered, and quench the fire that has burned in our bosoms against her troublesome and unmasonic Coffinberry. With our Companions on that beautiful Peninsular we will forever bury the hatchet and sit down by the council fires and smoke the pipe of peace.

Companion J. Eastman Johnson presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which shows ability and industry. He gives all Grand Chapters that use substitutes in conferring the Royal Arch degree a severe scolding, and has other sound ideas about Capitular Masonry. He has the following capital reply to the Grand High Priest of Kentucky in reference to the gathering storm of anti-Masonry in the West :

"In answer to our question, *where* was the 'anti-Masonic muttering' that Companion Martin, Grand High Priest of Kentucky, spoke of in 'the North?' he asks us, 'Have the Companions yet heard the whimperings of Finney and Blanchard? Have they heard the sheet-iron thunder of the Anti-Masonic Conventions of Illinois and the *National* at Pittsburgh?'

"If we had, we had forgotten it. The impression of all such 'sheet-iron' thunder may be explained by the story of the fly and the ox. The fly asked of the ox, 'do I worry you?' The ox replied, 'I didn't know you was there.'"

He gives the following opinion respecting the representative system :

"Your committee would respectfully submit that the system of appointing representatives as between Grand Chapters of separate and distinct countries, is very proper and commendable, as tending to cement the brotherhood of nations ; but that as between Grand Chapters of our States, it is too formal and ceremonious. The appointment and presence of fifty representatives in every Grand Chapter from as many State or Territorial Grand Chapters, if anything is to be said or done by them, would leave little time to say or do touching the general business. Besides, our system of warm fraternal intercourse, kept active through 'foreign correspondence' and the constant exchange of the printed proceedings of all our State Grand Chapters, does very pleasantly and profitably subserve the substantial purposes of a representative system.

"Now, let us ask, what are these representatives to do? What are their instructions, or have they no instructions? Have they power to do pretty much as they please—that is, are they ministers plenipotentiary? What their func-

tions may be does not appear. But if they have any duties to perform, and one of them be to talk of the affairs of their principals, what business can be expected to be done hereafter in a Grand Chapter having present some fifty representatives of other Grand Chapters, besides attending to the ministers plenipotentiary? In short, is not this whole scheme simply one through which distinguished Companions may be designated as ambassadors extraordinary?"

MINNESOTA.

The Ninth Annual Convocation was held at St. Paul, January 12, 1870, seventeen Chapters being represented. Grand High Priest Getchell shows, in his address, that all the Subordinate Chapters are flourishing, and harmony prevails. He made quite a number of decisions, such as have been frequently made elsewhere. Most of the proceedings are filled with matters of local interest.

Comp. A. T. C. Pierson presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, but never referred in any manner to the proceedings of our Grand Chapter, which have been regularly mailed to Minnesota, and had been in his hands a year, when he made this report ignoring our existence.

In his review of Maryland he prints his report, against our Grand Chapter, that he made in 1868, and which the Grand Chapter of Minnesota refused to print at the time. It is the same thing he carried to the meeting of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis in 1868, together with a speech against the recognition of our Grand Chapter, said to have covered one hundred pages. Nobody would listen to it there, and it went back to St. Paul in his pocket, greatly to his disgust, and the joy of all other Royal Arch Masons.

MISSISSIPPI.

The Twenty-second Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held at Jackson, January 20, 1870, sixty Chapters being represented.

A degree of prosperity was manifested, quite gratifying. The Chapters are slowly recovering from the effects of the war, and we rejoice to know that our loved Southern Companions are so faithful and zealous under the difficulties they have encountered.

The writer knows, by personal observation, that no better Masons exist on earth than those in Mississippi. A former residence among them proves this. And it is pleasant to see the Chapters arising now, Phoenix-like, from their ashes, and becoming vigorous and useful.

The following was adopted in the Grand Chapter :

"Whereas many Chapters under this jurisdiction have not met or made returns to this Grand Chapter since the close of the war, therefore be it—

"*Resolved*, by this Grand Chapter, That all such Chapters as shall go to work and come up to this Grand Chapter, with returns and dues for this year, shall be recognized as legal Chapters, and exempt from all former dues."

The following is a standing resolution, and shows how strictly our Mississippi Companions comply with their obligations :

"It is the order of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand

Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Mississippi that Subordinate Chapters are positively prohibited from using substitutes in conferring the Chapter degrees, and any Chapter violating this order will be dealt with by the Grand Chapter."

The material and financial prosperity of the Grand Chapter may be seen by the fact that the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is paid \$100 for his services, and the proposition was made to pay the Grand Lecturer the sum of \$2000 per annum.

Grand High Priest Mayes delivered an address full of decisions on Masonic law and jurisprudence, and much other valuable information. We would like to copy portions of it if we had room.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the able pen of Comp. Wm. S. Patton, as usual. We rise from the perusal of this report, annually, refreshed and instructed by the reading, always sorry to reach the end of it. There are several choice selections we want to copy, but want of space forbids.

It seems to be unfortunate for us that our Grand Chapter is not even mentioned, although our proceedings for 1869 were regularly sent. What is the matter, Comp. Patton?

MISSOURI.

The Twenty-first Annual Convocation was held at St. Louis, October 6, 1869, thirty-six Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Root gave a fine paper on opening, full of interesting information of a local character, and much of interest abroad.

The question of recognizing Masons made in Army Lodges and Chapters during our late war was discussed by the Grand High Priest, and his conclusions were subsequently adopted by the Grand Chapter.

We differ with Grand High Priest Root. George Washington assisted to institute Lodges in the Revolutionary war, in which our best generals were then made Masons, and there is a good precedent. Here is what he says on the subject:

"During my official visit to Sedalia Chapter, No. 18, I was informed that a Master Mason, hailing from an Army Lodge, but holding a dimit from a regular Chapter in Illinois, had applied for affiliation and (the Chapter being unaware of his Army Lodge relation) had been received as a member of Sedalia Chapter. After careful consideration, I concluded that until we were able to recognize him as a Master Mason we could not properly recognize him as a Royal Arch Mason. I, however, desiring further particulars, wrote to Sedalia Chapter, and in reply was informed that the Companion held a Grand Lodge dimit from the State of Illinois. I at once referred the matter to Grand Master Vincil, informing him of my views and intentions, and that I should only take action provided he was *not* recognizable as a Master Mason. The Grand Master promptly replied that a Grand Lodge dimit did not heal, and that the person holding it could not be recognized as a Master Mason if made in an Army Lodge. This accords with a previous decision of Grand Master Dunscombe.

"I accordingly, that we might not do, as Royal Arch Masons, that which

we are forbidden to do as Master Masons, issued an edict to Sedalia Chapter, ordering the name of the person to be stricken from their rolls, all fees returned, and no Masonic intercourse be held with him until he should have been healed as a Master Mason, when all his claims as a Royal Arch Mason would revive.

"I am thus particular in stating the case because I deem it of some importance, and, also, because I regret to be informed that some Companions of Sedalia Chapter deem my action arbitrary and unjust."

Masonry makes men more humane and happy, as well as more useful to their fellow-beings. If there is a place on earth where this should be cultivated, and the principles of Masonry disseminated, it is in an army, in time of war. To deny Masons the power to give degrees to those qualified to receive them, during a four years war, is a monstrous wrong that no technical objection will overcome, and should subject any Mason or body of Masons who narrow their minds to this prejudice, to the scorn of all Masons throughout the earth.

The writer was an officer for four years in the Union army, and can not only testify to the necessities of Army Lodges and Chapters, but to the powerful influences for good arising from them. He owes his life to the protection afforded him by Masons in the Confederate army, and has seen many lives of Masons saved by the tender care of a Mason in the opposing army. Although in a position to constantly test the attachment of Masons to their obligations, he never saw an instance where a Mason, dressed in either blue or gray, violated his honor or his obligations as a Mason. In both armies during the war Lodges and Chapters existed, composed of as bright and honorable Masons as can be found in Missouri. They were tested in a crucible such as other Masons at their ease at home knew nothing about.

Every Mason or Grand Body that votes such Army Lodges and Chapters illegal, should receive the rebuke and withering scorn of all true and sincere fraters. Every hand should be palsied that is raised against such auxiliaries of Freemasonry on the tented field, and made to hide itself in shame.

Our old friend, Companion George Frank Gouley, who received all his degrees in Masonry in Washington, presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is brief, comprehensive, and well written. His old friends in the National Capital still remember him with affection.

He says :

"Companion Benj. B. French submitted a very able and courteous report on Correspondence."

We tender Companion Gouley thanks for his compliment to our late Grand High Priest, but remind him that a careful reading of the report for 1868 will show that our venerable Nestor of Capitular Masonry was not on the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and never wrote a word of said report.

Here is a prescription given by Dr. Corson, of New Jersey, to Companion Gouley, too good to be lost :

"Companion George Frank Gouley presented the report on Correspondence, which is a most admirable document, marked, however, by a little greater acerbity than is creditable to his large brain and warm heart. In speaking of our humble self he 'supposes' that sooner than have an external opening made to our internal organs by a 'rebel bayonet,' we would be willing to recognize the holder of the aforesaid bayonet as a 'brother.' He is right,

for 'all that a man hath will he give for his life;' and in case of imminent peril we might do many things for our own personal safety which in principle we would condemn as wrong and improper. We have heard—a little bird whispered it in our ear—that Companion Gouley is not particularly fond of 'colored Masons;' in fact we are almost confident that he would refuse to recognize the African as a 'brother.' And yet if Companion Gouley should be tumbled into the deep waters, and was likely to be drowned, we venture to assert that he would make the 'sign of distress,' as soon as he could get in position, to a 'Darkey Mason' on the shore, and would grasp his hand as warmly as though he were a 'man and a brother,' if he thought that the valuable corpus of the said Gouley could thereby be saved.

"But after all there are worse men than Companion Gouley, for though he does occasionally roar like a bull of Bashan, still he doesn't mean any harm, and is really as gentle as 'Mary's little lamb.' The paper pellets of the brain which he fires off so fiercely don't hurt anybody, and his invectives are merely 'sound and fury, signifying nothing.'"

NEBRASKA.

The Third Annual Convocation was held at Nebraska City, October 25, 1869, four Chapters being represented, with one under dispensation.

Grand High Priest Wheeler delivered an address, in which he congratulated the Craft on the prosperity existing in the jurisdiction. He alludes to the resolutions passed by the Grand Chapter of Louisiana ceasing all fraternal relations with the Grand Orient of France, on account of its invasion of the territorial rights of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, and urges his Grand Chapter to assist their Louisiana Companions to secure their territorial rights. He gives a rose-colored account of the meeting of the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, and thinks that this General Grand Chapter should have "more power and authority." If he had lived in the District of Columbia he would have seen the advantage of its having no power whatever. He evidently enjoyed himself at this last triennial levee of the General Grand Chapter, and thinks it ought to be galvanized into some form of usefulness to the Craft. "All is not gold that glitters."

It seems that this same General Grand Chapter has not yet released its grip on the Chapters it once chartered in Nebraska, but has held, in an illegal manner, Chapters in that State, since the Grand Chapter of Nebraska was formed, as the following preamble and resolution will show:

"Companion Wardell offered the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted:

"Whereas, several subordinate Chapters in the jurisdiction of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter are to-day working under charters issued by the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America; therefore—

"Resolved, That all such subordinate Chapters be, and they are hereby, required to surrender such charters to the Grand Secretary of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter on or before the 1st day of January, A. D. 1870; and the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter are hereby directed to issue, in lieu thereof, and by authority of this Grand Chapter, charters for each and every of said subordinate Chapters."

The moment that the Grand Chapter of Nebraska was formed, the General Grand Chapter had no more right to exercise authority over a Chapter in Nebraska than it had to attempt to do the same thing over Potomac Chapter in the District of Columbia in 1868.

Companion Geo. B. Graff submitted a brief report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Chapters, ours not included. When this new Grand Chapter was formed we welcomed her into the fold, as our own twin sister, born the same year. We have sent our proceedings annually, and never yet heard any response or acknowledgment that they have been received. We cannot understand why our young sister gives such unmistakable evidence of negligence at this early age.

We are aware how readily divorces are granted out West; but yet we warn our twin sister that neither of us can possibly be old enough to secure one from any cause.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The proceedings from the "Old Granite State" come to hand earlier than usual, on account of changing the time for the Annual Convocation from June to May, in order to avoid meeting in Concord while the Legislature was in session.

We reviewed the proof sheets last year of the proceedings for 1868 and 1869 in one pamphlet.

We hope New Hampshire will continue to print the proceedings of her Grand Chapter annually in future so they will be fresh, and possess some interest when published.

Capitular Masonry was never so flourishing or harmonious in New Hampshire as now. The Chapters are doing an immense amount of work.

The address of Grand High Priest Marshall appears to be filled with much matter of local interest. His visitations to Chapters, as well as those of the other officers of the Grand Council, with their reports, all show a degree of prosperity in the Chapters hitherto unknown in this ancient Commonwealth.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Companion John J. Bell. It is a new style of getting up such reports which we do not admire. Different topics pertaining to Capitular Masonry are arranged under different headings, and the whole forms a literary hash. No proceedings are acknowledged from abroad, and none are separately reviewed. It is an easy way to perform a laborious task.

We miss a land-mark about this report. It is the absence of the name of the venerable Grand Secretary, Horace Chase, whose extreme age compelled him to decline to serve longer in that capacity. As Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery, he has served the Craft faithfully for quarter of a century. The stereotyped order will no longer be heard in the Grand Chapter at elections—"bring in your ballots for Judge Chase for Secretary."

Our old friend, Companion Abel Hutchins, succeeds him, and it is a capital selection. We hope he may live a thousand years, and be Grand Secretary all that time.

NEW JERSEY.

The Thirteenth Annual Convocation was held at Trenton, September 8, 1869, representatives of twenty-one Chapters being in attendance, beside a large representation of past grand officers.

Grand High Priest Case's address shows that the Craft are flourishing in Jersey; and the Deputy Grand High Priest and other officers report a fine condition of the various Chapters visited.

Dr. Woolverton, the Grand Secretary, and Dr. Corson, chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, together with a numberless crowd of other M. D.'s, manage to keep this Grand Chapter in a healthy condition. Royal Arch Masons in New Jersey appreciate their doctors, and thereby set a worthy example to less informed brethren in other States.

We have carefully read the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, written by Dr. Thos. J. Corson. He takes pride, evidently, in announcing himself a member of the "Mutual Admiration Society," and gives reminiscences in connection with the quill-driving Craft.

He copies the learned report of Companion Chipman from our proceedings for 1868, almost entire. In regard to the resolutions passed by the General Grand Chapter, at St. Louis, respecting our Grand Chapter, he says:

"We were present when this matter came before the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis, and opposed the adoption of the resolution by voice and vote, but to no avail. The General Grand Chapter committed, in our opinion, a most stupid blunder, for common sense at once shows that there cannot be two supreme governing powers in the same jurisdiction."

In his review of Minnesota he gives an amusing pen-and-ink sketch of Alphabet Pierson, who came to Washington without official invitation to install the officers of our Grand Chapter in 1867, but was told his services were not required, and then went home and commenced abusing our Grand Chapter, and everybody connected with it. He says of Pierson some very queer things, among them the following:

"He also says, 'at the late triennial meeting at St. Louis, the chairmen of Foreign Correspondence committees were more sought after than the dignitaries of the Order.' We can certify to the truth of this statement as far as he and the subscriber were concerned. He 'sought after' us and other reporters, who, as he thought, had 'anything over,' and were willing to lend for an indefinite period of time; but we are rejoiced to say, with indifferent success.

"Now, we will take our 'John David' that every prominent Mason throughout this country knows Pierson's password, invariably used when he meets a Companion, and which is, 'Have you twenty cents about you?'"

In common with the reviewers in most the other Grand Chapters, our Companion pitches into the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, in Virginia, in the following style:

"The Committee on Correspondence report having received the proceedings of thirty-one sister Grand Chapters, and then most insultingly inform our Virginia Companions that, 'after a careful perusal of all these documents, we find nothing requiring especial notice.'

"To say that the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters contain nothing of interest to the Craft, is a direct, deliberate insult, both to the Companions of other jurisdictions and to the members of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, the latter of whom would doubtless like to know something about the sayings and doings of their neighbors. If it be true that 'ignorance is bliss,' our Virginia Companions must be happy, as no light or information is given to them. If the writer of this report—and he is sufficiently ashamed of himself to conceal his name—had acknowledged that he hadn't sufficient brains to comprehend the documents submitted to him, or that he was too lazy to select such matters as would interest his Companions, it would have been well enough; but when he says that the proceedings of all these Grand Bodies are devoid of interest to the Masonic world, he offers to all of us a gratuitous indignity which should not go unrebuked."

We have received, after concluding our report for 1870, and too late to make a thorough review, the proceedings of New Jersey for 1870—the Fourteenth Annual Convocation held at Trenton, September 14, 1870. There were nineteen Chapters represented. General Grand High Priest Austin, and Grand High Priest Simons, of New York, were in attendance. A lengthy address, covering ten pages, was delivered by Grand High Priest Battery.

A mourning page in these proceedings gives the announcement of the death of our late lamented Grand High Priest B. B. French, ending with the fitting words, "He bore the cross, he wears the crown." It is gratifying to our Companions in the National Capital to see the respect paid to our distinguished frater who has affiliated above. The following resolutions convey to us the sympathy of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey:

"The special committee on the death of Comp. B. B. French reported as follows:

"Whereas the demise of B. B. French, Past General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, has been reported to this Grand Chapter; and whereas his well-known affection for the Craft at large, and especially for the Companions of this Grand Chapter, before and since its organization, and from the interest he has always manifested in the welfare and success of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, and the loss which the Craft at large have sustained in his death, therefore—

"Be it resolved, As a testimonial of his worth, and the affection which this Grand Chapter entertain for his memory, that a memorial page be left in the published proceedings of this Grand Body, with a suitable inscription to commemorate his many virtues.

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter most affectionately extend to his bereaved family their sincere condolence in the great loss they have sustained in the death of their noble and beloved husband and father, and to us of this great and shining light in Masonry.

"Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be properly engrossed, and forwarded, under the seal of this Grand Chapter, to his family.

"Which report was adopted, and the committee was authorized to have the resolutions properly engrossed and sent to the family of the deceased Companion."

Our beloved Grand High Priest French often stated how much he esteemed

the Companions and Sir Knights of New Jersey. Only a few days before death snatched him from us so suddenly he stated to the writer that he had an engagement to deliver an address at the State Encampment of New Jersey, at Atlantic City, and prayed that his health and strength would enable him to fulfill the engagement, as he anticipated great pleasure from the visit to the New Jersey Sir Knights on that lovely beach. Our fraters know how this priceless jewel in the diadem of Freemasonry was carried over the river of death before performing this anticipated task. Around the triangle he will meet his New Jersey fraters, where the great I AM above welcomes all who love him.

The report on Foreign Correspondence, covering 116 pages, was again presented by Dr. Corson, and is full of good things, mixed with so much bitterness and so many personalities, that it is hard to separate the wheat from the chaff. He denounces everybody who dares to differ with him in opinion, and thrusts his ideas forward as the immaculate conceptions of a perfect mind.

"O, would some power the gift give us
To see ourselves as others see us."

His unsolicited advice about conducting our Grand Chapter difficulties, now happily forgotten here, is unappreciated and unsought. We know here how to conduct our own affairs, as the history of our Grand R. A. Chapter proves, much better than those who live beyond this world in the State of New Jersey. We do not care to photograph Comp. Corson, as so many others have done, and will not let down our dignity to that level. Although he calls our report for 1869 "an intellectual production having no superior, and but few equals," still we decline to join the mutual admiration society, of which he says he is the "self-elected presiding officer."

Dr. Corson growls because we printed the expose of his humbug committee on the case of Delaware, and gave to the world last year a candid statement of facts which he did not want to see in print. He does not try to disprove any of the official data given there, but crawls away from the subject by trying to throw mud at Dr. Chaytor, the Grand High Priest of Delaware. When he says that Dr. Chaytor's statements "are not to be received without at least a small grain of salt," he endeavors to impeach the veracity of an honorable man and a true Mason, whom the Royal Craft of Delaware elected their Grand High Priest. Language is inadequate for us to convey the feelings of disgust and contempt we have for those who try to blacken the character of their superiors in Masonry by such insinuations.

They prove themselves totally disqualified to be recognized by the endearing name of Mason. We have placed full faith in the statements of Grand High Priest Chaytor, sent us over the seal of his Grand Chapter, and published the facts to the world. They have not been discredited anywhere except in New Jersey, and only there by a single person, who has disgraced himself by so doing.

The Royal Craft throughout the nation have often expressed their disgust for this form of vituperation and abuse so common in the reports of Dr. Corson.

Others have laughed over the doggerel he grinds out on a machine, and calls it poetry. We have room for only a few of the opinions. Comp. Horner, of Louisiana, has the following in his report:

"We have enjoyed the report thoroughly, and hope to peruse many more ; we are obliged to object to the conclusion, however, which, while printed as poetry, is acknowledged to possess 'but little rhyme, less rhythm, and no reason,' and is simply *execrable*, and far surpasses, in that respect, all of its predecessors of the same character, which, goodness knows, were bad enough ; as for the entirely unwarranted liberties taken with ourselves, we simply protest now, and are determined on our avenger hereafter, but not in the same style, and would suggest that reports which need a glossary appended in order that they may be understood, are 'played out.' "

Comp. Birnie, of South Carolina, takes off the epidermis from this disciple of Esculapius, mounted on a lame Pegasus, as follows :

"Any one who is acquainted with the style of Comp. Corson can form an idea of what sort a production the report on Foreign Correspondence is. We do not want to quarrel with Comp. Corson, but we must be bold to say that some portions of the report are not exactly to our taste, and has a decided tendency to lower the standard of Masonic literature. He is too personal in some places—decidedly so. Every one has his peculiarities and faults ; we would not be human if we were not so ; but surely, a report which goes before the public, and is in everyone's hands, is not the place to expose the peccadilloes of our Companions and friends. We must earnestly protest, in the name of the Order, against an increase and continuance of this sort of composition. The value of these reports to the Craft is lost altogether if authors descend to personal vituperation, and have no other ambition than by their witticisms and personal allusions to produce mirth at the expense of the feelings of others."

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-third Annual Convocation was held at Albany, February 1, 1870, representatives being present from 154 of the 247 Chapters in the "Empire State." There were 2,148 exaltations in New York last year and 14,664 members.

This great State leads all others in the number of Chapters, and also in membership. Thirty years ago the results of the Morgan excitement in this State had nearly extinguished Masonry in New York, and now there is no State where it is so powerful.

Outside of New York city it is kept in as good condition as in other States, but in the city its present condition is deplorable.

Grand High Priest John W. Simons delivered a lengthy but very interesting address. In it he urges that money be given to the General Grand Chapter, as beggars receive alms at the door. The concern is bankrupt, and wants cold victuals and old clothes. Hear him plead :

"At the late Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter the funds of that body were found to be exhausted, and the General Grand High Priest was authorized to contract a loan for the purpose of meeting the necessary expenditures of the recess. I presume that such a loan could be effected without much difficulty ; but I do not see in what manner that would permanently relieve the General Grand Chapter. Its sources of revenue are constantly diminishing, as new Grand Chapters are formed from the subordinates

owing it direct allegiance; and the time cannot be far distant when the State Grand Chapters, desirous of preserving the national compact, will have to take upon themselves the necessary expense of keeping the wheels in motion. Among all its peers, New York has ever been foremost in devotion to the maintenance of the Grand Chapter of the United States and the National Organization of the Craft it represents. Our State has been repeatedly honored by the selection of its sons as General Grand High Priest, and we should take a corresponding pride in being the first to step into the breach now, and voluntarily shield the General Grand Chapter from pecuniary difficulty. Believing that you will cheerfully and cordially sympathize with these views, I recommend that an appropriation of one hundred and fifty dollars be made from our funds and paid over to the General Grand High Priest as our contribution to the funds of the General Grand Chapter."

If General Grand High Priest Austin wants more money for the General Grand Chapter, let him step into Wall street and tell the curb-stone brokers the condition of his patient and enumerate its assets, and see what luck befalls him. If death by asphyxia should take place at Baltimore next September, we will all contribute to see the corpse decently interred. Its mourners in Delaware and the District of Columbia will fire salvos of artillery over its grave. Memorial services will then be held by Companion John L. Lewis in Washington, and by General Grand High Priest Austin at Wilmington, Delaware. Peace to Capitular Masonry will then be assured all over the United States. There will then be no more General Grand High Priests to pick quarrels and produce discord and trouble. Delaware and the District of Columbia will then pass into history as the battle-fields where justice fought oppression, prejudice, and ignorance single handed.

Companion Joseph White presented the report on Correspondence. He says he had not got our proceedings for 1869. Very sorry—they were sent to him.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Annual Convocation held at Wilmington, December 1, 1869, with only ten of her forty-four Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Hill delivered an address containing many good things we should like to copy, but cannot for want of space. He alluded to the fact that North Carolina severed her connection with the General Grand Chapter in 1857, and had not renewed it since, although that General Grand Body was anxious to induce a matrimonial alliance.

"Will you walk into my parlor,
Said the spider to the fly," &c.

The question was referred to a special committee, which reported as follows:

"The following report was received and adopted:

"*To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina:*

"Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand High Priest's address in relation to renewing allegiance to the General Grand Chapter, have had the subject under consideration, and while we are inclined to favor the proposition, yet we are not prepared at this time to advise that our

Grand Chapter again place herself under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, or that any decisive step be taken at this Convocation. We think it a matter worthy of the serious consideration of every Royal Arch Mason within our jurisdiction, and therefore recommend that the High Priest of every subordinate Chapter within this Grand jurisdiction should bring the matter to the special attention of his Chapter at an early day, that sufficient time may be afforded for a thorough canvassing of the question, in order that the delegates to the next Annual Convocation of this Grand Body may come fully prepared to either accept or reject the overtures of the General Grand Chapter, which will no doubt be made known officially to our Grand High Priest in the meantime, in conformity with resolutions of that Supreme Body, adopted at the last Convocation."

Companion Alfred Martin presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing twenty-seven Grand Chapters on eighty-two pages. He is a strong partisan of Maryland, and opposed to our Grand Chapter. There are so many errors and misrepresentations in it that we do not care to notice it further.

NOVA SCOTIA.

We hail with satisfaction and pleasure the proceedings of this new Grand Chapter, established so near sunrise that we should have to travel *east* a thousand miles to take these Companions by the hand, and tell them how glad we are that they have organized a Grand Chapter. We cross palms with them as Royal Arch Masons, and hope the day is not far distant when we can shake hands with them in the full enjoyment of the same blessed republican government we here enjoy. We would welcome them to this capital of the great American republic, and hope they will all soon point to Washington as the Mecca, where their political pilgrims will soon turn their footsteps as Senators and Representatives. We welcome them *now* as Masons, we would welcome them *then* as countrymen. And so we send them this fraternal greeting from the National Capital, and ask our beloved Companions to grasp the hand we tender.

When the new Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was formed, the first act was to abolish the English and Scotch work and adopt the beautiful York rite as worked by all the Chapters in the United States. This is a long step in the right direction. Its adoption has been popular with the Royal Arch Craft, and it has put new life and vigor into their Chapters. They say, "The beautiful York ritual is now conferred in a manner equal to that in any Chapter on the continent. We have heaved the Scotch ritual so far over into the rubbish that it will never again be brought to light."

In regard to the interesting correspondence respecting the formation of this Grand Chapter, the reader is referred to the report of this committee made to the Grand Chapter at its Semi-annual Convocation last May, and published at that date. The letter of this committee to Grand High Priest Keith, also the formal letter of recognition from our Grand Secretary are published in their proceedings. The history of its formation is there given; also the circumstances connected with the attempt of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland to declare it irregular and void. It has been recognized during the first

year of its existence by nearly all the Grand Chapters in the United States, and Canada has raised no objection, although she had partial territorial jurisdiction over the peninsula.

They adopted the American names for their Chapter officers instead of the English, Scotch, or Canadian; so they have no Grand Z.° H.° or J.°.

The excellent report on Foreign Correspondence by Companion J. Conway Brown, as given in these proceedings, has reference to the subject of titles in his review of Canada. It says in the review of Louisiana:

"To support his argument he brings up an old document from that Masonic eccentricity, Pennsylvania, bearing date A. D. 1798, and containing the letters Z.° H.° and J.°.

"We can go back farther than that, for in the records of Royal Union Chapter, formerly 118, R.° E.°, but now No. 1, R.° N.° S.°, we find in 1797, Duncan Clark, H.° P.°, Adam Fife, K.°, and Robert Lyon, S.°.

"This Adam Fife is referred to by Sheville and Gould as having first conferred the Mark degree on this continent in 1781.

"We hope ere long to make such researches among our old records as will throw some light on this interesting subject."

Companion Brown quotes the following interesting remarks from the address of the Grand Z.° of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

"Last year, (1867,) I brought under your notice the probable effect of confederation on Capitular Masonry in and throughout the Dominion, and Grand Chapter was pleased to concur in what was then my opinion, and sanctioned the appointment of a committee to carry out certain preliminaries and report at the present convocation. Events have, however, since occurred, of such a nature as to render such committee of no particular benefit, and I have, therefore, abstained from so doing. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have now their respective Grand Lodges fully organized and recognized. The G. L. of Canada has representatives from, and near to both. I can no longer, consequently, think that in spirit those two portions of the Dominion are 'Unoccupied Masonic Territory.' There can be no doubt that independent 'Grand Chapters' may be at once established in each, by the Companions residing and working therein.

"Under these circumstances I did not think it right to fritter away the valuable time of Companions by naming them a committee having no power of action.

"Being, nevertheless, impressed with the importance of constituting, if possible, one 'General Grand Chapter' for the Dominion, and believing that, considering the not very numerous Subordinate Charters, a general union would give far more weight, influence, and stability to the Royal Art than separate governing bodies, I requested the Grand Scribe E. to issue a circular, inviting our Nova Scotia and New Brunswick companies to meet us, if in their power, at this convocation, and in all good fellowship, consider the matter, and arrive at some conclusion. From Nova Scotia I have not a word, and looking at the dislike of that Province to the act of confederation, I did not much expect any action. From New Brunswick communications have been received, and the Companions there have not been inactive. The Grand Scribe E. has the papers connected with this interesting movement."

To this kind reference to their case Companion Brown retorts as follows, which is sharp and pointed, with a sting in the the tail :

"We do not intend to touch on the political question, any more than to say that, when, as recently occurred at this port, an officer of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia was actually mulcted in a 15 per cent. duty on his Grand Lodge Apron and Gauntlets, which he was carrying as personal baggage, the act of confederation is not likely to act as an incentive to the surrender of our Masonic Government to parties a thousand miles away, more particularly as those parties happen to be the controllers both of Political and Masonic Government there."

Companion Brown acknowledges the receipt of our proceedings but does not review them. Under the head of "Maryland and District of Columbia," he gives the following new geographical and political status of the District of Columbia :

"It may be well to remark for the information of those not conversant with American affairs that this District is, although located in the State of Maryland, not politically a part of it, at least so far as voting, &c., is concerned."

In his review of Michigan he gives us some information, as follows :

"Referring to Iowa, which decides that a M. M. M. made in England must be 'formally healed' before being 'eligible to the balance of the Chapter degrees,' and quoting the reason assigned, viz : that 'independent Mark Lodges are not recognized in England,' he says, 'We ask why not 'recognized'? Suppose he had been made in a Philadelphia Mark Lodge, how then? While we can see a propriety in declining to recognize an English R. A. M. (as he may have no knowledge of the intermediate degrees) we can see no good reason in refusing recognition to an English M. M. M.'"

"Leaving aside the Philadelphia matter as a Masonic 'anomaly,' by which title Companion Drummond has justly described Pennsylvania Royal Arch Masonry, we must dissent as regards English R. A. M.'s, whom we, as well as Canada, fully recognize.

"Our practice is to give English R. A. M.'s the intermediate degrees free of charge except Grand Chapter registration fee and certificate—\$2 in all.

"They might with equal justice refuse recognition because an English R. A. M. cannot give the Veil words and signs, which are not used in that country."

Although we have copied extensively from this excellent report, yet we must cut one more slip from Companion Brown's report, which is his conclusion.

And we beg him to continue his researches among the old archives of that ancient Province, and give us next year, all the light he has obtained.

"In concluding this report your committee regret exceedingly their failure to perform a task they had earnestly wished to accomplish, viz : that of throwing some light upon the early history of Royal Arch Masonry in this Province, which they had hoped to obtain from the records of Union Chapter, No. 1, formerly No. 118, R. E. In the By-Laws we find the names of Duncan Clark, H. P., Adam Fife, K., and Robert Lyon, S : this was in the year 1797, and the list is complete to date.

"The above Adam Fife is the same as alluded to by Sherville and Gould as having given the Mark degree (in Virgin Lodge, then Artillery Lodge, of which he was W. M.) in 1784.

"One of our Past High Priests, M. E. Comp. J. D. Nash, states that it was first given in St. Andrew's Lodge, in 1761, but he produces no documents in support. Just at the last moment he gives us the clue where to search, and, if successful, he will indeed justly earn the thanks of the Royal Craft everywhere.

"We have Mark stones evidently very old, and mostly furnished with a Bible in the centre: the letter H, instead of being on the top, is placed where the last S usually stands.

"We have also a curiously wrought stone, which evidently belonged to the crown of a dome; on it is a mark as above and the figures, nearly effaced by time, —39.

"From the appearance of these old relics, and the prospect of gaining access to the records of the past, we hope next year to return to the Sanctuary with discoveries which may possibly prove of service to the Craft: meanwhile we continue to pursue our labors in search of them."

OHIO.

The Fifty-third Annual *Convocation*, which Ohio, singly and alone, still persists in calling a *communication*, took place at Cleveland, October 15, 1869, with a representation from ninety-six Chapters.

Grand High Priest Kiefer delivered an address which was wholly occupied with matters of local interest.

We had the proceedings from every Grand Chapter on earth except Ohio, and not wishing to omit the Buckeye State, sent to Grand Secretary Caldwell and got a copy. It is so badly printed we can scarcely read it, and we are satisfied it does no credit to that great State in an artistic point of view.

Prosperity marks the progress of Capitular Masonry in Ohio. There are 119 Chapters in the State, with 5,945 members, and 802 exaltations the past year.

Companion Will M. Cunningham presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, only reviewing the proceedings of twelve Grand Chapters. He gives his reasons for this meagre report in the following caustic paragraph, which blisters where it hits:

"In the year 1866 your committee had under review the printed proceedings of twenty-one Grand Chapters.

"In 1867 they reviewed the proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Bodies; and in 1868 the committee had under consideration the printed proceedings of the General Grand Chapter and thirty State Grand Chapters. But in 1869 (as occurred in 1865) the chairman of your committee not being a resident of the city of Cincinnati, (and thereby have ready access to the proceedings as received,) the printed transactions of but twelve Grand Bodies have been submitted to them for review.

"In the opinion of your committee the discrepancy is too great to again entirely attribute their non-reception to the irregularity of mails or carelessness in other jurisdictions, as in former instances."

After the Convocation, and while the report was being printed, he got the proceedings of thirteen more Grand Chapters, which he hastily reviewed.

Our proceedings were not acknowledged—what is the matter, Companion Caldwell?

Companion Cunningham concludes his report with the following advice, which ought to be printed in letters of crimson, and hung up in every Chapter Chamber throughout the United States :

"The modern practice in Masonic Bodies of measuring the intellectual capacity of its members by their solemnity of visage, facial length, and *wordy asceticism*, is passing away. The theory that a long face, solemn visage, and canting words are indicative of sense and piety is an exploded humbug, and an *innovation* that should have no place in the Masonic Institutions, whilst goodness of heart and fertility of brain may cause witty mirthfulness when at refreshment, yet they are not incompatible with the solemn duties of labor when 'at work.'"

After the report on Foreign Correspondence had been received and adopted by the Grand Chapter, we got the proceedings of Ohio for 1870. We can add only a few words in acknowledging these proceedings. Annual Convocation was held at Cincinnati, September 13, 1870, one hundred of the one hundred and twenty-five chapters in the State being represented. Register shows a list of six thousand six hundred and four Royal Arch Masons in Ohio, and prosperity and harmony blessing the Royal Craft.

Companion J. Kelly O'Neal presented the report on Foreign Correspondence. His review of our Grand Chapter is cordial and fraternal. We reciprocate his kind sentiments expressed.

A mourning page is devoted to Companion Howard Matthews, for many years chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the Grand Chapter. His death is deeply deplored, for Ohio loses one of her brightest jewels. He will be remembered here as a particular friend of our Grand Chapter. He wrote and presented in the Grand Chapter of Ohio the first resolutions of recognition that were ever received by our Grand Chapter.

A mourning page is also devoted to our late Grand High Priest, B. B. French. Grand High Priest Kiefer alludes to him as follows in his address :

"Death, in his work, selects men of mark and distinction as his victims, as well as the more humble and retired in our ranks. Companion Benjamin Brown French, Past Grand High Priest, Past General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and Past Grand Master of Temples of the United States, died at his home in Washington City, the capital of the nation, on the 12th day of August. This illustrious Companion had been an active Mason since his initiation in 1825. Identified as Companion French has been with the noble progress of Masonry in this country, and so linked in social fellowship with many of the active workers of this Grand Body, I deem it not out of place to suggest that further record be made on your minutes of the valuable services and noble character of the deceased. A select committee, I hope, will be ordered by you to convey, in suitable language, our condolence to the families, friends, and immediate Masonic associates of these worthy dead."

OREGON.

The Ninth Annual Convocation was held at Portland, June 18, 1869, five Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Bayley delivered a short address, and some local business was done of little importance.

Companion J. H. Wythe presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of fourteen Grand Chapters, ours included, to which he devotes three sentences. The brevity of the report is the most remarkable thing about it.

To the following criticism we say *amen*, with as much emphasis as though we were exhorting at a Methodist camp-meeting :

"The reports of the various committees on Foreign Correspondence are both witty and wise. It is a matter of regret, however, that the tendency to witticism and personality so largely prevails. While it renders the report racy and readable, it detracts somewhat from the dignity which should characterize our public proceedings. 'A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men,' but its publication is a matter of questionable propriety. It is in no captious spirit we write this criticism, but from a desire to promote the real good of the Royal Arch."

We are delighted to see our young sister on the Pacific take a right view of this important subject, and rebuke a few long-eared writers who pride themselves on belonging to mutual admiration societies.

Just as our report was passing into the hands of the printer, we received the proceedings of the Annual Convocation held at Astoria, June 17, 1870.

Grand High Priest Bayley gave an opening address to the Royal Craft filled with items of local importance.

Our late Grand High Priest B. B. French was appointed representative of the Grand Chapter of Oregon, near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. This Annual Convocation was held only a few weeks before his death.

Comp. S. F. Chadwick presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, in which he states some stubborn facts against the General Grand Chapter. In his review of the District of Columbia he says :

"There is no doubt but that every Grand Chapter, when it created this General Grand Chapter, or recognized its existence, held that there was not a 'vested right' surrendered; that every Grand Chapter was independent, and not subject to the legislation of the General Grand Chapter. But this is not the doctrine to-day; and it will be but a few years when this doctrine of 'State rights,' so to speak, in Masonry, will be ignored by this General Grand Body. The additional power it craves, or that which it claims, but desires to amend the Constitution so as to enforce it, convinces us of this truth. It will not be long before the General Grand Chapter will have a new Constitution, made up of amendments, changing the original design of that body. It is refreshing to hear of 'vested rights,' and at the same time witness a desire to amend the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, in order to give her some 'power and dignity.' It is all very fine and delightful to meet as a General Grand Chapter, and be 'lionized,' puffed off on an excursion, and feasted; but it is humiliating to think that Grand Chapters are now considered by many to be *subordinate* to this General Grand law-making power. We do not wish to predict trouble on this point, and will close this review in the words of Comp. G. . G. . H. . P. . M. . E. . John L. Lewis. 'Upon this

point,' jurisdiction of General Grand Chapter, it concedes nothing, because *it cannot concede anything* without aiming a blow at its own existence. It must deny the right of independence or secession either voluntary or forcible, or cease to be not only a *governing*, but an existing Masonic body. * * * It would be mere speculation to point out the relative position held or to be assumed by the General Grand Chapter towards any of its *subordinates* who have occupied, or may hereafter occupy, this relation to it. * * * It may be that the question of jurisdiction is fraught with more danger to its continued existence than that of work and lectures, or any other which has come before it."

PENNSYLVANIA.

We have received an "abstract of the proceedings of the M. E. Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging," for the Annual and Quarterly Convocations—which they call *Communications*—for the years 1868 and 1869, making a pamphlet of 104 pages.

They published no proceedings for the year 1868 because they sent their chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence on foreign travel, and being absent from the country, he made no report. As the report on Foreign Correspondence is about all they publish in their proceedings in the "Keystone State," its absence made the Grand Chapter put the proceedings for 1868 and 1869 into one pamphlet. As the work of the Chapter is different from any other State in the Union, in Pennsylvania, so their customs of keeping out of print everything they do is peculiar to that State. At the Annual Convocation in December, 1868, Grand High Priest Griscom delivered a lengthy address, giving a glowing account of his visitation to Chapters in different parts of the State. He adds up statistics as follows:

"As already recited, under my administration during the past year there have been constituted, under warrants duly granted by the Grand Chapter, four new Chapters, three of which were constituted by me as Grand High Priest in person, assisted by my Grand Officers, and one at Alleghany city by Companion Davage, District Deputy Grand High Priest, with the assistance of the Companions there, under a dispensation issued by me to him for that purpose, as before mentioned.

"There are now within our jurisdiction, in the State of Pennsylvania, sixty-three Chapters, all in working condition, and fulfilling their important functions in peace, harmony, and prosperity.

"The number of members in these Chapters, by last report to the Grand Secretary for 1867, was 5,020. There are three Mark Lodges, with a total membership then of 2,807."

We find that the charter issued to the last Chapter is numbered 225, which shows the total number of Chapters that have existed in the State. At this time there are only 67 carried out on the register published in this pamphlet. This shows a decrease in Capitular Masonry wholly unaccountable, and to be found in no other State.

They have three degrees in their Chapters in Pennsylvania—the Mark degree, which they confer in Philadelphia in Mark Lodges, wholly distinct

from Chapters, and the Most Excellent, and Royal Arch. The degree of Past Master is unknown in Chapters in this State. The old English work is still preserved in Pennsylvania, and the Mark degree worked as it is now in England, and the Royal Arch the same way. They pride themselves on working the degrees as they did before Webb remodeled them for America, but they have got the Most Excellent Master's degree just as Webb invented it. We have seen all the degrees worked in Pennsylvania the past year, and, excepting the Most Excellent Master, do not like the work at all. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence close their report with the following :

"The Past Master is another question causing much discussion and legislation. In several Grand Chapters a Past Master by service, or an actual Past Master, is required to 'pass the chair' a second time in the Chapter. Receiving our Masonic education in this jurisdiction, we believe that the method here is the correct one, and that all 'passing to the chair' is and of right belongs to the Grand Lodge. The candidate is a Past Master of a Blue or Symbolic Lodge, and we cannot understand how any Grand Chapter can authorize a Royal Arch Chapter to open and do the work of a Lodge of Master Masons."

There are many other things which our kind friends and excellent Companions in Pennsylvania cannot see clearly, as well as the necessity of giving the Past Master's Degree in a Symbolic Lodge. Every State has thrown away this work except Pennsylvania, and she alone persists in using it, and saying that she is right and all other jurisdictions in America are wrong. We can only regret that she persists in continuing a practice that has been abandoned by every other State for half a century.

- In Washington we have many members of the Royal Craft who received their degrees in Pennsylvania but are now residents of this city, and we do not know one of them who does not condemn the Pennsylvania work they received, and like that better now worked in the District of Columbia, which is the same as that all over the United States; even the Companions in Pennsylvania are not satisfied with their work, as they have said to the writer the past year.

To show the dissatisfaction that exists, we copy the following from the Grand High Priest's address:

"From the districts along the borders of the State, in the north, the west, the south, and the east, much complaint has reached me of embarrassment caused by a disposition among Master Masons of this jurisdiction to go to the Chapters of the adjoining States for exaltation to the Royal Arch degree. I have uniformly discouraged the practice, and in all cases declined to give my assent when it has been asked for the purpose, as has in several instances been the case. I have courteously replied to written applications from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and also to the Secretary of Siloam Chapter, No. 19, in Camden, N. J., to the effect that, unless in case of urgent necessity, which should be clearly stated, no formal assent or permission could be given by the Grand High Priest of this jurisdiction to such proceeding."

Japan does not allow her citizens to visit foreign countries because they seldom return to their own. So Pennsylvania does not allow a Master Mason to go elsewhere to get his Chapter degrees, even when courteously requested.

It certainly shows that Capitular Masonry is more popular in adjoining States, else Companions on the border would not desire to get the degrees in Chapters across the line.

Companion Chas. Eugene Meyer presented a report on Correspondence for 1868 and 1869, reviewing the proceedings of other States for the two preceding years, and it certainly reflects great credit on him, for it is an able and courteous report, marked with much ability. His review of our proceedings for 1867-'8 is fraternal and judicious. He copies a large part of Companion Chipman's report on Jurisprudence, given in our report for 1868, but differs with the conclusions adopted in the report. We would like to copy many good things from this report, but a want of space forbids it.

RHODE ISLAND.

The Seventy-first Annual Convocation was held at Providence, March 9, 1869, six Chapters being represented, with two under dispensation. We have received no proceedings for 1870. There is no report on Foreign Correspondence, and no acknowledgment that the proceedings of our Grand Chapter, or any other, had been received. This is not creditable to a State that has so much Masonic talent in it. The home of Thomas Smith Webb, who founded Capitular Masonry as worked to-day in the United States, ought to do better.

Grand High Priest Doyle delivered an address filled with valuable suggestions and much good advice. He gives such an interesting account of the death and resurrection of the General Grand Chapter of the United States that we cannot forbear copying what he says on that subject.

After copying the resolutions passed at St. Louis by the General Grand Chapter (see proceedings for 1869) he makes the following statement in his address:

"You will observe that the above preamble sets forth as a fact that this Grand Chapter 'assumed to withdraw from the jurisdiction of that Supreme Body,' and as such supreme power they claim jurisdiction over this Grand Chapter, and are anxious that we should set aside our act of withdrawal.

"So far as I am informed, the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island has no such act of withdrawal to set aside, for she never passed any. When the General Grand Chapter of the United States, of which the Grand Chapter of this State was a part, failed to hold its triennial session and its records and archives passed into a jurisdiction where the representatives of this Grand Chapter could not obtain access to them, then this Grand Body considered that the General Grand Chapter of the United States had ceased to exist, and from that time forth it has not been recognized in this State. The Grand Chapter of Rhode Island is no secessionist; she has broken no covenants; she has violated no pledges. So long as there was a General Grand Chapter, even though it had lost its power and seemed to be a useless organization, the Grand Chapter of this State clung to it, and a resolution looking to a dissolution of her relations with the General Grand Chapter was voted down; but our Grand Chapter did not see the necessity of binding its officers and members, and the members of its subordinates, to obey the constitution and edicts of a norganization which had practically passed out of existence, and therefore ceased to do so.

"The distinguished and learned companions who compose the present General Grand Chapter may acquire sufficient strength to coerce outstanding Chapters into their organization, but they can never by votes or resolutions, no matter how many times adopted, make their body the same organization as the former one.

"Fortunately for them, the unhappy state of things existing in this country came to a sudden termination, and they were enabled to obtain possession of the records of the old body in time to attend the session of the Grand Encampment of the United States in 1865, and armed with these and assured by the presence of two or three of the officers of the General Grand Chapter elected in 1859, they declared themselves to be that body, and at once set about ascertaining whether they were then holding the triennial session of 1862 or a special session in 1865. It was finally decided that it was the latter, and after a few hours' session, during which they amended the old constitution to meet the emergency, closed to meet the next day in the '*nineteenth triennial session*' "

"With this state of things before us, we are now told that we have withdrawn from their organization, when in fact we were never members of it, and it is yet to be decided whether we ever shall be."

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Annual Convocation was held at Charleston, February 15, 1870, twenty-six Chapters being represented. A large amount of local business was transacted, of no particular interest to Companions abroad.

The new Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was recognized, and the right hand of fellowship extended. Several representatives were received and others appointed to Grand Chapters abroad.

The venerable Companion Thayer, Grand Secretary, retired from that position and complimentary resolutions passed, and he was voted an annuity of \$150 during his life.

The Grand Secretary read the following letter, which seems to be the first response ever obtained from Ireland officially on this side of the Atlantic:

"GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE, FREEMASONS' HALL, DUBLIN,
"3d day of September, 1869.

"M. E. COMPANION: Yours of the 18th August is duly to hand, and in reply I beg to inform you that the documents referred to therein came safely to hand. The brethren to whom they were directed, I regret to say, have been called away. Our present officers you will find on the yearly and half-yearly sheets which I forward by this post. Our Grand Lodge does not publish its proceedings. I do not think our Grand Chapter would entertain an application for mutual representatives; at least until such were in existence as regarded the Grand Lodges respectively. However, your letter shall be laid before the Grand Chapter.

"Yours, faithfully and fraternally,

"CHAS. T. WALMISLEY,

"Per. SAM'L B. OLDHAM.

"Br. E. THAYER, G. Sec. G. Chap. South Carolina,

1 Montague street, Charleston, S. C."

Grand High Priest Bruns delivered an address, which he pronounced to be his valedictory in that position. We congratulate the Royal Craft in the Palmetto State that his successor was elected, and that the Grand Chapter is still in a healthy condition notwithstanding. He signed his name to the address "R. S. Bruns, 32° Grand High Priest." We suppose that cypher, appended to these cabalistic figures, signifies that the writer is a cypher in Capitular Masonry!

The sky-rocket eloquence perpetrated by him in his address can be fully understood by the following stunning paragraph:

"We are under the Grand Arch of Heaven from which we borrow the similitude of that which opens for us the portals of our temple; and here, as under the cerulean cope and canopy of the genial skies, which gladden our sight, let us remember that the Eye of the Grand High Priest of Earth and Heaven looks down upon us."

Companion Bruns, 32°, also puts into his address the following candid confession:

"It was my good fortune, Companions, which I greatly wish you might all have shared, to engage in the delightful ceremonials and festivities of the Centennial Celebration of St. Andrew's Chapter in Boston last September. This was, indeed, the Centennial of Royal Arch Masonry in the United States, and our Companions of St. Andrew's did ample justice to the grandeur of the occasion. They extended generous and loving welcome to all Companions from abroad, and assigned them high places in the Temple and pleasant places at the Board. We shared in their solemn services as in their hospitality, and felt with every inspiration at Board or Altar how blessed a thing it was to behold brethren meeting in unity together.

"For you, as for myself, Companions, I brought home the most affectionate sympathies and the most heartfelt Masonic evidence of encouragement and gratulation. I look forward to the time, my Companions, as not so very far distant, when, with our own Grand Temple in which to receive them, we, too, shall welcome the Companions North, East, South, and West, and requite their hospitalities and renew the bonds of our sympathy."

We are delighted more than tongue can express to see that the writer of that paragraph about Boston hospitality has built a bridge over some of his well-known prejudices, and can speak of his Massachusetts Companions without a sneer. It shows the progress he has made lately in the right direction. Whether this progress will make him General Grand High Priest in 1871 we cannot undertake to say. But there is certainly a change in his heart since he stood up in the streets of Charleston in 1861, and there declared that if "a Yankee Mason on bended knee begging for life should give the sign of distress, I would kill him on the spot."

Companion James Birnie presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing twenty-seven Grand Chapters, ours *not* among the number, although our proceedings have been regularly mailed to Grand Secretary Thayer.

TENNESSEE.

The Annual Convocation was held at Nashville, September 29, 1869, sixty-five of her eighty-three Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Maxwell delivered an address, in which he received representatives from seven Grand Chapters; and named appointments to eighteen Grand Chapters. Our late beloved Past Grand High Priest B. B. French being the representative from Tennessee near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

The Committee on Jurisprudence made a report, from which we take the following:

"3. In the matter of Alexandria Chapter, No. 50. The High Priest states that an applicant for the degrees had been elected, and before the degrees were conferred, objections were filed with the Secretary to his receiving them, no charges having been preferred. That it has been standing in this condition for several years, and he asks this Grand Chapter to instruct him how to proceed.

"Answer: A Companion is not required to prefer charges, because he files objections. An objection has the same effect as a black ball, and the candidate can have his petition called up at the end of six months, and at the next stated meeting thereafter again balloted upon."

Dr. George S. Blackie gives the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is unusually courteous and candid. He reviews the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, ours among the number.

In reviewing Maryland, he copies a long but exceedingly able and truthful account of the formation of our Grand Chapter and the difficulties that beset it, from the pen of Companion Frizzell, as published in the March number of of the "Masonic Record." It covers nearly ten closely printed pages, and is the best and most truthful account of our Grand Chapter difficulties we ever read from the pen of a Companion beyond our own jurisdiction. If the whole affair was not now a thing of the past and rapidly being forgotten here, we should copy a part of the article as a matter of historical record.

Dr. Blackie was received as a representative of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and announced that Tennessee and South Carolina were the only Grand Chapters in America now in correspondence with Scotland. Companion Blackie will now add our Grand Chapter to the list.

TEXAS.

Twenty-first Annual Convocation, held at Houston, June 13, 1870, forty-five Chapters having their representatives present. Total number of Chapters, 99; exaltations, 341; total membership, 3,220.

Grand High Priest W. G. Veal delivered an address, showing the prosperity of the Royal Craft in Texas, also much other interesting matter of local importance.

Deputy Grand High Priest Munger made the following decisions:

"1st. That neither the M. E. Grand High Priest nor his Deputy have authority to resuscitate a Chapter whose charter has been revoked.

"2d. That after the minutes of the Grand Chapter have been read and approved, an omission cannot be supplied by a Grand officer after the close of the Convocation."

No report is printed on Foreign Correspondence, and the chairman of the Committee, Companion Tucker, asked for further time to report, as it was not

ready. We hope to hear from the pen of Companion Tucker again. His reports in years past have been very interesting.

VERMONT.

The Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held at Burlington, June 17, 1870, twenty of its twenty-four Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Charles A. Miles delivered an excellent address, giving cheering news of the condition of the Craft in the Green Mountain State. A new feature of his address was the brief eulogies on every Royal Arch Mason in the State that died the preceding year.

Companion Britton, who has formerly furnished the report on Foreign Correspondence, having removed to the West, Companion S. Marcy presented the report this year, which does him great credit. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters, ours among the rest.

In 1869 this Grand Chapter appointed a committee to report whether Vermont should again resume her connection with the General Grand Chapter of the United States. This committee reported as follows:

"The Committee on Relations of Vermont Grand Chapter with General Grand Chapter, made the following report through Companion E. S. Dana:

"To the M. E. Grand Chapter, now in session:

"The Committee, appointed at the last session of this Grand Chapter, to consider the subject of our status with the General Grand Chapter, respectfully report: That they have had the subject under consideration, and would recommend that our Grand Chapter re-affirm the action of 1860, withdrawing allegiance from the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"After full consideration, this Grand Chapter withdrew from the General Grand Chapter in 1860, and this course was approved and endorsed by Past Grand High Priests Tucker, Campbell, Davenport, Washburn, and other eminent members of the Craft. Subsequently, in the Grand Chapter, we find that eleven Grand Chapters in the United States refuse allegiance to the General Grand Body, and that several others seem dissatisfied with it, and will undoubtedly soon withdraw from it.

"Bereft, as it is, apparently, of all power for good, or of enforcing any of its regulations, it seems now little more than a triennial levee for social interchange of feeling. This, of course, makes it a pleasant re-union, but it should hardly be dignified by so commanding a title as the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

Companion Marcy gives a fearless and searching review of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, which is very conclusive in its arguments.

In regard to the resolutions passed at St. Louis respecting our Grand Chapter, he says:

"If that self-styled Supreme Grand Body will thus stultify itself by violating its own Constitution—by severing an isolated Chapter (Potomac) from her rightful parent, and decreeing her death by starvation—it well deserves the kicks and cuffs she is receiving from those she would gather with enticing loving words into her embrace."

He says further, that this "shows conclusively what subterfuges that body will resort to in order to keep the breath of life in her."

It will be recollected that the General Grand Chapter at St. Louis passed resolutions that no Grand Chapter had been formed in the United States without its authority, except Pennsylvania, Virginia, Florida, and Delaware.

The voice of Vermont comes from the witness-stand and pronounces this assertion false, and says "the Grand Chapter of Vermont was established under a grant from the State of New York, Dec. 20, 1804." Other States can also prove this assertion to be false. So the General Grand Chapter purposely hides itself behind falsehoods, for the sake of mercenary motives, and to assist it forward to self aggrandizement.

Vermont withdrew from the General Grand Chapter when it emasculated itself in 1859, under the advice of its most eminent Mason, Phillip C. Tucker. In 1860 this action was endorsed by the Grand Chapter. The review of its position, and the data and information given, is so interesting we copy for general perusal:

"These resolutions of withdrawal were fully discussed by Companions WILSON, ENGBESBY, NEEDHAM, and STEVENS, and were then unanimously adopted.

"G. H. P. C. Tucker, said, at Windsor, in 1856, in relation to the General Grand Chapter, 'This Grand Body, unless composed of different material, will yet make much trouble.'

"G. H. P. John S. Webster, in 1858, referring to his predecessor, uses the following language: 'The opinions of my learned predecessor, as there given, were then and now, in consonance with my own.'

"G. H. P. Thomas H. Campbell, in alluding to this subject, said: 'The General Grand Chapter, in my opinion, by its own suicidal act, has shorn itself of all dignity, and even power, to command respect and obedience.'

"There are elements of discord at work in this General Grand Body that will cause its dissolution at no distant day, and the sooner the better, in my opinion, for the State Grand Chapters.'

"G. H. Priest Davenport, in 1861, thus discourses: 'At our last Annual Communication, we absolved ourselves from all allegiance to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and I am convinced that we did right. I had some doubts about so hasty a decision at the time, but from developments since made, I am fully satisfied that a continuance of our connection with that Grand Body could not have resulted in any good to the Institution. I have no doubt, but that each State Grand Chapter is fully competent to manage its concerns, and that Royal Arch Masonry will flourish in its purity, under State regulations, quite as well as it would under the supervision of the General Grand Chapter.'

"P. G. S. S. Brooks introduced the following resolution, which passed by a unanimous vote, at the Convocation in 1865.

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be, and he is hereby, instructed to report with the transactions of the present session of this Grand Body, the regulations adopted at the last Annual Convocation, after having revised the same, and renumbered the articles, so that article xiii. may be expunged, as all those passages referring to the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"All Royal Arch Masons made in Vermont since 1860—and these comprise quite one-half in the State—are not obliged to obey the 'laws, constitutions, and edicts' of the General Grand Chapter, and it would seem to be almost an impossibility to reinvest them with this tie.

"Having given the well expressed opinion of our honored High Priests touching the utility of the General Grand Chapter, and the acts of the Grand Chapter of Vermont in relation thereto, we now propose to show what other jurisdictions are saying of this G. G. Body.

"Rhode Island, 1869, holds this language: 'So long as there was a General Grand Chapter, even though it had lost its power, and seemed to be a useless organization, the Grand Chapter of this State clung to it, and a resolution looking to a dissolution was voted down; yet the officers and members were not bound to obey its edicts, and so it practically passed out of existence.'

"We would here observe that the General Grand Chapter for 1862, was appointed to be held at Vicksburg, Mississippi, but owing to the disturbed state of the country, no convocation was held at that time—the records being out of the reach of the officers.

"Previous to the meeting of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, at Columbus, Ohio, in 1865, two or three of the officers having obtained the records, elected themselves to office and declared that they were the General Grand Chapter of 1862. They then amended the constitution to suit the emergency, and adjourned over to the next day, which they denominated the regular Convocation of 1865. So much for the present status of that G. G. Chapter, which now comes to us with honied words and loving invitations, to again place ourselves under their easy yoke, and partake with them of the noble, bountiful, unsurpassed, and lavishing hospitalities extended to them by the open-hearted, generous souls who will ever minister to their wants, wherever they may meet—even the darkened glass, price fifteen cents.

"P. C. Tucker, of Texas says: 'We deny the dogma that a State Grand Chapter cannot withdraw without consent of the General Grand Chapter. No such covenant was ever made with the so-called National Body by a State Grand Chapter.'

"The State Grand Chapters were never the subjects or subordinates of the so-called General Grand Chapter. They are, in fact, its Masonic equals. The General Grand Chapter was designed as a general assembly of the Royal Craft; it was a confederacy for certain purposes by agreement, and any body had and has the right to retire therefrom, if it so elect. *What is the penalty if it does so? and who can enforce it?*

"W. B. Langridge, Grand Secretary of Iowa, uses the following sentiments, which were endorsed by the Grand Chapter: 'I am opposed to allowing the General Grand Chapter one moment's longer life than may be necessary to accomplish its end, as I am entirely convinced that it is an utterly useless, expensive, and inefficient body—accomplishing nothing at its meetings, or so little as to show its needlessness, and only effective during its vacations in producing discord and disturbance.'

VIRGINIA.

The Annual Convocation was held in Richmond, December 16, 1869, with representatives present from thirty-one of her fifty-eight Chapters. It does not seem to be customary for the Grand High Priest to deliver any address in this ancient Grand Chapter, and some other forms differ from other States.

Companion William B. Isaacs submitted the report on Foreign Correspondence, and apologizes for its brevity, and states that it was hastily prepared. He also explains satisfactorily what he meant last year by saying that he had examined thirty one proceedings of Grand Chapters and "found nothing requiring especial notice."

As our Virginia Companions across the Potomac have just awoke from a Rip Van Winkle sleep, and heard of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, they have officially recognized our Grand Chapter, and the Committee on Correspondence has the following :

"We have cautiously abstained from taking any part in this controversy, because we have had *war*—not of words only—and seen enough of its distresses and hideous deformities to rob it of all its romance; hence our anxious desire and prayer to God is to be permitted to live at peace with all the world. We really and ardently hoped that the General Grand Chapter, of which they are both the children and constituent members, would have authority and influence so to control them as to bring reconciliation and peace within their borders. Companions of both jurisdictions, remember 'a soft answer turneth away wrath;' and we beg that you duly weigh and consider your utterances, reconcile your differences, which you can do without the sacrifice of one particle of principle, so far as we can see, and thus let 'universal harmony prevail.' Without intending any unkindness to the Grand Chapter of Maryland, with which we have for so many years been holding affectionate relations and correspondence, we feel the time has arrived, and that it is now due to our young sister of the District of Columbia, that we should open our arms and receive her with a loving embrace into the galaxy of bright, particular stars, and accept her as an 'acquisition to Capitular Masonry' in the United States; therefore—

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Virginia hereby recognizes the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and extends to her a cordial welcome among the Grand Chapters of the Union."

We make a low bow to our much-loved Companions of Virginia for this tardy recognition, after we have got to be a four-year-old, and would remind them that if they had taken as much time to consider the question of going to war with the United States Government, referred to by Companion Isaacs, as they have in recognizing our Grand Chapter, they would never have seen the "distresses and hideous deformities" of war.

Companion Isaacs has the following in regard to the weakness of Companion R. S. Bruns, the Bombastes Furioso of South Carolina :

"While upon this branch of our subject we would kindly introduce an inquiry, by the way and in parenthesis, what is the meaning and why is it that our esteemed M. E. Companion of South Carolina attaches to his official

signature the figures 'thirty-two and nought?' Why not, with equal propriety, as Grand High Priest, use the mystical letters, to the uninitiated, G. P. I. O. O. F., or W. P., or U. S. L., or G. S. of the Wigwam! We cannot, for our life, see why the use of them all would not be as appropriate and commanding as the 32°."

A dispensation was granted to a new Chapter at Clarksburg, West Virginia, and a charter to one at Morgantown, West Virginia, all being beyond the limits of the State of Virginia, and consequently beyond her jurisdiction. On the list of Chapters holding charters from the Grand Chapter of Virginia are ten situated in the State of West Virginia. We trust these ten Chapters will form a Grand Chapter at once, as West Virginia is now the only State in the Union, except Nevada, without a Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter of the United States pretends to assume authority over all States and Territories where no Grand Chapter exists.

Why don't they try their authority on West Virginia?

What becomes of all the pompous assumptions of Companion John L. Lewis and Companion James M. Austin?

Why don't they walk into West Virginia and take possession, as they did in Delaware?

The cases are exactly parallel. Delaware Chapters got their charters from Pennsylvania, which Grand Chapter never recognized the General Grand Chapter. Virginia never recognized the General Grand Chapter, and is now giving charters to West Virginia.

Where is Companion James M. Austin and his authority?

WISCONSIN.

This Grand Chapter, instituted February 13, 1850, held its Annual Convocation at Milwaukee, January 18th, 1870, thirty-eight of the thirty-nine Chapters in the State being represented. Total membership, 2,298, with 169 exaltations the past year.

There is a valuable report from the Committee on Jurisprudence, made by our old friend, Companion H. L. Palmer, Past Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States. We would like to copy it if we only had the space.

Somebody failed to do their duty, for there is no report printed from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence this year.

Grand High Priest Carpenter delivered an address which every Royal Arch Mason in the United States ought to read. The following excellent advice in his address applies as well to the District of Columbia as to Wisconsin:

"Again, a visit to *many* of our Masonic institutions will reveal the fact that ability and worth are not the *sine qua non* to prominence in their management.

"There are various causes for this state of things; one is the readiness with which a show of zeal is mistaken for the possession of the qualities which distinguish the true Mason; another cause is the proneness of the Craft to accept mere 'good fellows' for representative men; another cause still is a superficial estimate of the term 'posted.' Now, a Mason may know the ritual from 'Alpha to Omega,' and be able to recite it as glibly as a precocious

schoolboy will rattle off the multiplication table, yet have as little appreciation of the true principles of Freemasonry as the boy has of the problems of differential or integral calculus. Or, he may be able to repeat the contents of all the books on Masonry ever written, or rehearse all the traditions of the Order, and still be no more fit to open, govern, and instruct a Masonic body than the parrot, which has learned to repeat any number of set phrases, is qualified to discharge the duties of professor of elocution in a first-class college.

"To be a good presiding officer requires executive ability, administrative talent, a knowledge of business and parliamentary rules, together with a courteous and dignified manner. In addition to the foregoing, a presiding officer of a Masonic body should possess three indispensable qualifications: First, he should be *au fait* in the history of the Order—this includes the ritual as far as relates to the forms and ceremonies; second, he should understand the philosophy of Masonry, which embraces the explanatory portion of the lectures; third in place, but first in importance, he must be thoroughly imbued with the *inspiration* of its glorious truths, without which all else is 'as sounding brass, and a tinkling cymbal.' Still another, and the crowning qualification of him who occupies the chair once filled by the illustrious founder of 'Ancient Craft Masonry,' is the ability to *command respect* and the faculty of imparting instruction in such a manner as to impress upon his charge a proper sense of the beauty and perfection of the sublime precepts which have touched the hearts and united the souls of the greatest and best men the world has ever known, and which will lead all who feel their just influence to a higher and better life. Such an officer will be a pillar of wisdom, a tower of strength, and the perfection of beauty in the work of erecting that beauteous temple of holiness, whose foundation is Charity, Mercy, and Justice. Men of this character and description are to be found in most Masonic bodies, but in order to secure their services they must be *brought out*; they will *never nominate themselves* or electioneer for their own advancement. When such men are brought to the front and kept in that position, there will be no lack of work or cause of complaint in regard to the quality of material offered for the building.

"It is an old and homely saying, but nevertheless true, 'birds of a feather flock together.' If we want the best of men to apply for admission to our Order, we must attract them by placing their peers in the foreground, for mankind judge a society by its leaders, as the passers-by do a merchant's stock by the kind and quality of goods displayed in the window."

ENGLAND.

Grand Secretary Larner sent our proceedings for 1869 to Grand Secretary Hervey of the Grand Chapter of England, officially, with fraternal greetings, when they were published, but has never received the courtesy of a reply. The chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence addressed a note, officially, to him several months later, but has received no reply. Knowing that no Grand Chapter in the United States had ever succeeded in obtaining official correspondence with our Mother Grand Chapter, your committee, though chagrined, were not disappointed.

Having letters of reference from several distinguished American Masons to

prominent Masons in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, York, and other English cities, the chairman of your committee sent them across the Atlantic and received replies from most of these distinguished Masons, but failed to obtain any official correspondence from the Grand Chapter of England. It is the custom in foreign jurisdictions for committees on Foreign Correspondence to transact such official business, but in this instance it was denied. The attempt to place the capital of the United States in correspondence with the capital of Great Britain proved a failure. We publish these facts for the information of other Grand Chapters in America. The mother of Freemasonry on the globe refuses to recognize her children abroad. We leave it to others to characterize this act in proper language, and determine whether this is truly Masonic.

We know that Royal Arch Masonry in England, unlike that in the Blue Lodges, is kept select, and is monopolized by the aristocracy and nobility. We know that the officers of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England are noblemen of high birth, and accomplished as gentlemen. But in education, intelligence, honor, and manliness, they have their peers in America, although our Grand Chapters are not controlled by nobility, for we have no such thing in Republican America. We have, however, gentlemen of education and refinement who control Royal Arch Masonry in America, and with whom no Englishman need feel ashamed to associate. All those qualities of head and heart that truly make MASONs our aristocratic Companions of England will find in the Royal Craft of America. As long as England gave birth to modern Freemasonry, and now counts two millions of disciples all over the earth, she is the last that should shut herself up, away from the gaze and admiration of her children, and, like the Tycoon of Japan, die of *ennui*, or resolve her Grand Officers into a mutual admiration society.

In America we fully realize and endorse the following lines from the great Masonic poet, Robert Burns, whose memory Masons in America love and esteem so highly :

"A king can make a belted knight,
A marquis, duke and a' that,
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Guid faith, he maunna fa' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
Their dignities, and a' that,
The pith o' sense, and pride o' worth,
Are higher ranks than a' that.

"Then let us pray that come it may—
As come it will for a' that—
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
May hear the gree, and a' that—
For a' that and a' that,
It's comin' yet for a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that."

The Supreme Grand Chapter of England and Wales holds its Convocations in London.

The Right Honorable, the Earl of Zetland, is the M. E. Grand Zerubba-

bel; the Right Honorable, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, is Grand Haggai; the M. E. Comp., Rev. John Huyshe, Grand Scribe Ezra.

England is divided into twenty-three Provinces, with eleven Provinces abroad. Of the 370 Chapters in active operation, five are in other parts of Europe, three in China, twenty-three in the East Indies, twelve in the West Indies, sixteen in Australia, two in New Zealand, seven in America, and five in Africa.

The sun never sets on the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of England. It is extended over the whole surface of the globe, and governs Royal Arch Masonry wherever the English language is spoken.

The request of your committee for more light respecting the work in Royal Arch Chapters in England, and information concerning the origin and history of Royal Arch Masonry in Great Britain, elicited little knowledge and meager replies from most of the distinguished Masons addressed.

There was, fortunately, a single exception to this in the reply that came to hand from the eminent author and historian, Comp. William J. Hughan, Prov. Grand Secretary for Cornwall, &c., &c. It is with more than ordinary pleasure that we lay his letter before the Royal Arch Masons of this city, and commend it to the careful perusal of the Craft in all the different States, where we trust it will be copied.

It gives more real information respecting the working of the Chapter degrees, and the history of Royal Arch Masonry abroad, than we have seen elsewhere. We make no apology for its length, on account of its great importance to the Craft in America.

“TRURO, CORNWALL, GREAT BRITAIN,

“April 28, 1870.

“DEAR BRO. DR. MASON: I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and as I believe in the international or cosmopolitan character of the Craft, will proceed at once to answer your numerous inquiries respecting Capitular Freemasonry in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

“I must first, however, premise that my time is too fully occupied to permit of my doing justice to so extensive a subject, and therefore wherein this reply may be deemed insufficient, a further communication from you shall, if possible, receive a more lengthy consideration.

“As chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the District of Columbia, United States, you will have frequently regretted the want of reliable information relative to the progress of Royal Arch Masonry in Europe. Were but the example of the United States Grand Chapters to be followed this unsatisfactory state of affairs would not long continue, but unfortunately in our country the Quarterly and Annual Communications Reports contain little beyond a register of the attendance and abstracts of accounts. Ireland is in the same category with us in England, but Scotland possesses valuable annual ‘Reporters’ issued by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapters respectively, and are much valued by literary Freemasons.

“Calendars, however, are published annually, in which may be found a quantity of statistical intelligence by the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, Grand Orient of France, and by private enterprise. These are likely

enough known to you. At least there is no reason why they should not be, as you will have only to indicate your wishes to the Masonic publishers in Europe to secure copies of the documents and works published by the various Grand Bodies, or information as to where and how they may be obtained.

"Brothers Richard Spencer, Great Green street, and George Kenning, Little Britain, London, could procure you almost any kind of work relating to our ancient institution published in this hemisphere. The former has an excellent Masonic library, and is the publisher of all the late Dr. Oliver's voluminous Masonic works. Brother Kenning is the proprietor of the 'Freemason,' which, I believe, has the largest circulation of any Masonic magazine in the world. It occurs to me that these brothers would be excellent mediums for you whereby to obtain Masonic publications, which at present you regret being unable to procure.

"I have devoted considerable time to the study of Royal Arch Masonry and its real and *supposed* connections. Especially my researches have culminated in narrowing the question as to the *date of origin*, and as to when Grand Chapters were first formed in England. A short sketch of this subject will be interesting to you, and prove to be in some respects earlier positive information about the degree than you have previously obtained.

"Doubts have been thrown on the *antiquity* of Royal Arch Masonry, and certainly with truth. All purely Masonic degrees, apart from the *three first*, have been introduced subsequent to the publication of the first printed Book of Constitutions by the Grand Lodge of England, A. D. 1723, and consequently are all of *modern* origin. Another opportunity may enable me to give you my views on Craft Masonry, *both ancient and modern*. With reference to Royal Arch Masonry, I believe it was introduced into England by the brethren against whom complaints were made at the Quarterly Convocation in June, 1739.

"The degree, however, though a foreign one—so far as Great Britain, Ireland, and the United States are concerned—is virtually of English origin, as its character was materially changed under the influence and exertions of both the 'moderns' and 'ancients' of England. How far the promoters of the '*secession*' from the first Grand Body of England were justified in altering the character of the *degree*, about A. D. 1740, we shall not here enter upon. That the 'ancients' were the inventors in this country no one doubts, and if their *success* justified the *means*, the origin of the English Royal Arch was certainly a commendable work.

"In the present day we have only to accept the 'work' handed down to us and maintain the 'landmarks.' I purpose in this short sketch informing you (a) of the earliest references we have to the Royal Arch degree in this country, (b) the constitutions of the three Grand Chapters, (c) and a little statistical information relating to the Craft in Great Britain and Ireland.

(a.) Until A. D. 1867, no one during this century has produced earlier *printed* information referring to British Royal Arch Masonry than A. D. 1756, viz: 'Abiman Rezon,' first edition. In this work Dr. D'Assigny is alluded to, A. D. 1744, as an authority of that year. The work of A. D. 1744 has not been actually known to the Masonic public, however, for *many years* until I became the fortunate purchaser of a copy in 1867, from a London second-hand

bookseller. The work is entitled 'A Serious and Impartial Inquiry,' Dublin, A. D. 1744, and is written by Fifield D'Assigny, M. D. As the Royal Arch is therein mentioned, and its source traced to England, an important fact as to its approximate date is thereby determined :

* * * * *

"Subsequently, in the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE for Dec. 21, (No. 442,) this rare copy was also acknowledged to be, in all probability, unique, and references were made to well-known Masonic authors, such as Dr. George Kloss, Rev. Dr. George Oliver, and others, who had quoted from Dr. D'Assigny's work, but always second-hand, viz., from 'Ahiman Rezon,' of A. D. 1756, 1764, 1778, or late editions, by Laurence Dermott, Grand Secretary of the 'Ancients.' In no case have we been able to find any writer on Freemasonry alluding to Dr. D'Assigny's 'Enquiry' from personal observation of its contents, excepting in the case of Bro. Dermott, and, but for his quotation, we should, up to the end of last year, have been quite in ignorance of the existence of any printed book mentioning the English Royal Arch degree *before* A. D. 1756.

"In our 'Analysis of Ancient and Modern Freemasonry,' page 445 FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, vol. 18, we mentioned that Bro. Findel, in his comprehensive 'History of Freemasonry,' declares that 'he sought in vain for the book in the British Museum;' and in Die Bauhutte for 8th August, 1868, there is an interesting article by our learned brother on the importance of the work itself, and the presumed value of its statements respecting the Royal Arch and Masonry generally. We are not aware whether the book is or is not in the British Museum, but would feel obliged for accurate information on the subject. It will be seen, by turning to Dr. Kloss' invaluable 'Bibliographie der Freimaureir,' A. D. 1844, article No. 1,859, even that indefatigable brother was unable to do more than insert Bro. Dermott's notice of Dr. D'Assigny and his notice of the Royal Arch, (Vide page 128, 'Fifield D'Assigny, schrieb 1744, ein Buch, welches Dermott im Ahiman Rezon, No. 154, angiebt, als enthalte es Bezügliches auf den Royal Arch Grad.') This quotation is given by Dr. George Oliver, (page 107, 'Origin of the English Royal Arch,' and it is likewise adopted by various Masonic authors with or without acknowledgment.

"The following is an exact copy of the title-page: 'A series and Impartial Enquiry in the cause of the present Decay of Freemasonry in the kingdom of Ireland. Humbly addressed to all the brethren accepted of before and since the Constitutions. To which are added such instructive remarks as may be found useful to revive the honor of that ancient Craft. As likewise, by way of appendix, will be inserted the old and new regulations of the London Constitutions, by the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and dedicated to the Right Worshipful and Right Honorable, the Lord Viscount Allen, Grand Master of this kingdom. The whole adorned with a curious copper-plate suitable to the Order and design. By Fifield D'Assigny, M. D., author of the Impartial Answer to the enemies of Freemasons. Dublin. Printed by Edward Bate, in George's-lane, near Dame-street, M.D.CC.-XLIV., 8vo.. 80 pages.' There are also a few 'select songs of Masons' (eight in number) appended, and likewise a list of the regular Lodges in the city of Dublin, together with the names of the respective Masters and Wardens, their times and places of meeting, (16 in all, No. 1 declared 'at this time to be vacant,') although not acknowledged in the 'contents.' The 'copper-plate,' unfortunately, has been removed by some regardless hands, and the 59th to the 64th pages inclusive, have been also extracted, containing the 18th to the 26th clauses of the 'Regulations.' So far as these regulations are concerned, the loss is of no importance, as we have them in the 'New Book of Constitutions by Edward Spratt, Dublin, 1751,' Anderson's Constitutions, A. D. 1738, and other editions, but we must confess to feeling much regret at the loss of the 'curious copper-plate.' It may, however, have been nothing more than a copy of the 'engraving' adorning the Constitutions of A. D. 1723 or 1738, like in many other works of that period.'

"At present the nature of the 'curious copper-plate' seems far removed from discovery. The author dedicates the 'Enquiry' to the noble and puissant 'Prince Truth,' because he has 'endeavored to preserve those lasting and unalterable principles which the subjects of its kingdom so remarkably possess.' About 400 subscribers' names are inserted immediately after the dedication, commencing with the Right Hon. John Lord Viscount Allen, G. M., the Hon. Eliz Alldworth, Boyle Alldworth of Copsfield, and Laurence McDermott, (Lawrence Dermott.) This celebrated 'Lady Freemason' is supposed to have been initiated about A. D. 1739, (by the author of the *Memoir*, issued by the noted Masonic Publisher, Bro. Richard Spencer.) Some writers, however, think the date was earlier, while others fancy it was later.

The fact of her name occurring as a subscriber to Dr. D'Assigny's 'Enquiry,' A. D. 1744, somewhat narrows the inquiry, and is of itself confirmatory of the account of her being a 'Free and Accepted Mason.' It seems quite inexplicable though why the extraordinary initiation of this lady is neither mentioned by Dr. D'Assigny nor by Bro. Edward Spratt, the Grand Secretary, in either of the works or constitutions published under their superintendence. The latter states that the 'Right Worshipful and Right Honorable, the Lord Viscount Duneraile was proclaimed Grand Master of Masons, and installed on Tuesday, 24th June, 1740. We take it that his lordship succeeded the Right Honorable Arthur St. Leger, created first Viscount Duneraile June 23d, 1703, (who died A. D. 1727,) and consequently was a brother to the Honorable 'Elizabeth St. Leger, who married Richard Alldworth, Esq., of Newmarket, County Cork, who was son to Sir Richard Alldworth, Provost Mareschal of Munster.' Those anxious to pursue the inquiry cannot do better than procure the 'Memoir' from Bro. R. Spencer. A sketch of the 'Lady Freemason' has also appeared in the 'Devon and Cornwall Masonic Calendar, 1868,' the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE, and other publications. Dr. D'Assigny having had so numerous and influential a body of subscribers, several of whom took 'six copies,' we are certainly surprised to find that the work has been lost sight of for upwards of a century. We think, however, that the doctor must have told some unpalatable truths, as his name never appears in the list of officers from A. D. 1730, to A. D. 1750, neither is there any notice whatever taken of him or his publications by any compiler of the Irish Constitutions. Probably, the work itself was 'bought in,' or condemned by the authorities, as we know how averse they were then, and for sometime afterwards, to publish anything in Masonry but the regulations.

"But to return to the main subject of this article. The preface commences thus: 'No government can properly subsist without certain wholesome laws and regulations, and as our commonwealth not only pleads the pride of antiquity, but, with equal justice, boasts of the beauty, order, regularity, and happy disposition of its fundamental constitutions, and as the happiness of the Craft also depends on a perfect intimacy with those rules handed down to us by our wise legislators, whose labors and skill in the everlasting art of architecture well demand the praise and admiration of the learned brethren in future ages, I have endeavored, in the following sheets, to represent some mistakes, irregularities, and unseemly transactions which have been occasioned by the want of an acquaintance with them, nor will the brethren, I hope, take it amiss (as I have chose Truth for my patron) that I should strictly adhere to its principles, and point out the base and unpure from the generous and brave.' After alluding, in a most laudable manner, to the motives that should incite members of the fraternity to practice morality and good fellowship, so that they might 'meet with a general esteem from all mankind,' the following 'heartly good wishes' are expressed in conclusion: 'That plenty, peace, and unanimity may crown the brethren's days, so that this life ended, they may receive the recompense of their toils, and dwell in the presence of that Immortal Stone belonging to our building—even the Alpha and Omega of our redemption.'

"The author observes that 'it is with the utmost anxiety of mind that he

has any occasion to employ his pen in representing the decay of Freemasonry; the increase of its welfare and advancement would have been a more pleasing task to him, but as the design of the present labor is to promote the latter, he proceeds to make the following inquiries:

"First. 'When or what time the Craft of Masonry was instituted.'

"Secondly. 'The cause or motive of its institution.'

"Thirdly. 'The qualities or principles of the Craft.'

"Fourthly. 'The benefits arising from a strict observance of the principles thereof.'

"It will be seen that these divisions of the subject involve a consideration of the whole scope of the Institution.

"1. In order to solve the first question he 'traces antiquity even unto its infant state, and takes a view of our parent Adam in his sylvan lodge, where the Almighty Architect imprinted on the very tablets of his heart the amazing symmetry and silent harmony of geometrical proportion.' Then from 'Cain, who erected a fair city, and Enoch, who by gift of prophecy foretold the deluge, and that great day yet to come of final conflagration,' the author conducts his readers to 'Shinar's plain, where the masons laid the foundation of Babel's stupendous tower!'

"Like most Masonic writers of that age, Dr. D'Assigny is anxious to give an epitome of ancient history so as to connect Freemasonry with every grand and stupendous structure from the beginning of time to the building of King Solomon's Temple, 'which was carried on by the wisdom and dexterity of the learned Hiram, Grand Master of the Lodge of Tyre, who, together with the inspired Hiram Abif, Master of the Work, without the noise of tools, produced the most perfect pattern of architecture, the wonder and amazement of the travelling world.' We, however, of the present day would give more for a few sentences from an old minute book than a million of learned fancies and absurd stories about the origin of the Craft.

"The author was, after all, but following in the wake of the Rev. Dr. Jas. Anderson and other writers of that epoch. At page 16 the old York legend is inserted as an 'authentic account,' *e. g.*: 'It is said there is held an assembly of Master Masons in the city of York, under the title of Royal Arch Masons, who, as their qualifications and excellencies are superior to others, they receive a larger pay than working Masons; but of this more hereafter.'—(Page 16.) We need not stay to discuss such a statement, as it is wholly fabulous. Brother Findel was sent to this country by the 'German Union of Freemasons' purposely to look into the matter; and his careful investigations abundantly confirmed the fact that, until after A. D. 1760, Royal Arch Masonry was unknown in the city of York. With this statement we quite concur, as we proceeded to that famed Masonic city in the summer of 1867; and, although the records and charters were freely placed at our disposal, and a minute examination was instituted, nothing relative to the Royal Arch could be found until after the middle of the eighteenth century. Brother William Cowling, P. M. and Treas. of the Union Lodge, York (custodian of the records of that Lodge, and of those belonging to the extinct Grand Lodge), is also of the same opinion. Curiously enough, Dr. D'Assigny takes quite the reverse view as to the chivalric degrees and Masonry; for, so far from admitting the indebtedness of the latter to the former for their ceremonies, he expressly declares that it 'could easily be proved that the Knights of Malta, and many other religious orders and societies, did borrow their solemn religious usages from our ancient fraternity.'—(Page 22.)

"2. The motives of the Institution of Masonry are declared to be very numerous. 'The welfare and good of mankind was the chief cause or motive of so grand an institution, which not only tends to protect them from external injuries, but to polish the rusty dispositions of iniquitous minds, and to detain them within the limited and pleasant bounds of true religion, morality, and virtue.'

"3. The benefits arising from a strict observance of the principles of the Craft are so apparent that the author 'believes every Christian would be found

to profess and practice the same, because those principles tend to promote the happiness of life, as they are founded on the basis of wisdom and virtue.'

'The following judicious 'Remarks' on this subject are offered by Dr. D'Assigny, and we have thought it advisable to give them almost *verbatim*, because in many respects they are applicable to, we fear, many Masons of the present day who have wholly mistaken the intention of the society, and appear to believe that the chief end of Masonry is to 'Eat, drink, and be merry.' It is to be regretted that so large a proportion of Lodges are held in 'public houses or hotels;' although we would fain hope that much improvement has been made of late years in that respect. It seems to us quite out of place for Masons to meet in 'taverns' and 'houses of public resort.' In support of this opinion we cannot do better than refer our readers to a series of remarkable letters in *THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE* by my friend, Bro. Dr. Henry Hopkins, and especially the one contained in the number for August 29, 1868. These letters are well written, and the result of many years close observation of Masonry by one skilled in the Craft.

"But, to return to Dr. D'Assigny: 'In the first place, as our privileges and instructions when rightly made use of, are not only productive of our welfare on this side of the grave, but even our eternal happiness hereafter, they ought only to be communicated to those alone who might improve and enhance their value; whereas, on the contrary, in several Lodges, too many have been fond of a trifling treat, and have sold their birthrights at a mean price, even for a mess of pottage; and, instead of taking a due and especial care to inquire into the reputation or character of the candidate, they have imprudently hurried him into the Craft, contrary to the known constitutions.

* * * From the imprudence of introducing such members, various divisions and disputes have arose in Lodges, where the brethren (instead of preserving the harmonious and friendly concord that ought to subsist amongst them) have unluckily fell into factious parties; so that unanimity, which ever will be the lasting cement of the Brotherhood, hath been dissolved. As an house divided against itself cannot stand, so likewise is it absolutely essential that every community should preserve peace and harmony as the surest foundation of its welfare; and I cannot help expressing my concern to hear of so many idle and trifling disputes as lately have happened amongst some of the fraternity, occasioned, as I must imagine, by the unfortunate and inconsiderate election of their members, the example of whom ought highly to engage us in a strict examination of the temper, disposition, and conduct of each candidate; for one contentious man may subvert and spoil the peace and quiet of our harmless hours, and, as the old proverb alleges,—

Unico prava pecus inficit omnia pecus.

'One scabby sheep may infect an whole flock.'

"The concurrent observation will, we trust, be well considered by the advocates of the Christian character of Universal Freemasonry, and who would thereby virtually exclude Jews and other religionists as full participators in the benefits of our cosmopolitan institution:—

"But how ridiculous do partisans concerning religion appear among us? Whereas the Craft, though founded upon that solid basis, will admit of no such controversies, and, provided we are not all of the same opinion in matters of faith, yet ought we ever to be of one mind in matters of Masonry; that is to labor justly, not to eat any man's bread for nought, but to the utmost of our capacity to love and serve each other, as brethren of the same household ought to do; nor can I help judging it as great an absurdity in one man to quarrel with another because he will not believe as he does, as it would be in him to be angry because he was not exactly of the same size and countenance, &c.; but the true brotherhood are resolved never to suffer any strife to enter into the door of the Lodge upon that or any other point whatever.' (Page 29.)

"We come now to the quotation given by Laurence Dermott, in the 'Ahi-man Rezon.' The part included in a parenthesis is all that is known to have

appeared in any work, and it will be seen that the character of the quotation is considerably altered by an examination of the context. No doubt Bro. Dermott (who was not over scrupulous what he did to advance the position of the 'seceders,' or 'ancients,' as they were called), gave as much of Dr. D'Assigny's remarks as suited his purpose; but, as we are now in possession of the book itself, it appears to us evident that the author was only acquainted with three degrees of Craft Masonry, and no more. It also appears that he was not aware of the nature of the Royal Arch, and, although he wished its promoters to be treated with deference, because 'they were an organized body of men who had passed the chair,' we must not forget he expressly warned the brethren against 'ridiculous innovations,' 'foreign schemes,' and any more than 'three material steps' in Masonry. I can see nothing but a fair answer to objectors, who considered they should know what the Royal Arch was, without making 'proper application,' in Dr. D'Assigny, saying that they should seek to be admitted if they wished to know what the degree was like, and then be accepted with due formality. No one, however, would take that opinion as equivalent to supporting the degree from one so anxious to act constitutionally, as at that time English Royal Arch Masonry was not recognized by any regular Grand Lodge in the world, and not by our own Grand Lodge until as late as A. D. 1813.

"It had, however, been virtually recognized by the Grand Lodge of England from 1780; and from about that date to the 'Union' was patronised by many of the leading members of the fraternity, who formed a Grand Chapter eventually and practiced the degree. For fuller information on this point we would refer our readers to Dr. Oliver's Royal Arch, and our 'Analysis.'—(Part 2.)

"Dr. D'Assigny proceeds to observe that 'as the landmarks of the Constitution of Freemasonry are universally the same throughout all kingdoms, and are so well fixed that they will not admit of removal, how comes it to pass that some have been led away with ridiculous innovations, an example of which I shall prove by a certain propagator of a false system some years ago in this city, who imposed upon several very worthy men under a pretence of being Master of the Royal Arch, which he asserted he had brought with him from the city of York; and that the beauties of the Craft did principally consist in the knowledge of this valuable piece of Masonry. However, he carried on his scheme for several months, and many of the learned and wise were his followers; till at length his fallacious art was discovered by a brother of probity and wisdom, who had some small pace before attained that excellent part of Masonry in London, and plainly proved that his doctrine was false; whereupon the brethren justly despised him, and ordered him to be excluded from all benefits of the Craft, and although*—(some of the fraternity have expressed an uneasiness at this matter being kept a secret from them, since they had already passed through the usual degrees of probation. I cannot help being of opinion that they have no right to any such benefit until they make a proper application, and are received with due formality; and as it is an organized body of men who have passed the chair, and given undeniable proofs of their skill in architecture, it cannot be treated with too much reverence, and more especially since the characters of the present members of that particular Lodge are untainted, and their behaviour judicious and unexceptionable, so that there cannot be the least hinge to hang a doubt on, but they are most excellent Masons)—I cannot help informing the brethren that there is lately arrived in this city a certain itinerant Mason, whose judgment (as he declares) is so far illumined, and whose optics are so strong that they can bear the view of the most lucid rays of the sun at noon-day; and although we have contented ourselves with three material steps to approach our *Summum Bonum*, the immortal God; yet he presumes to acquaint us that he can add three more, which, when properly placed, advances us to the highest heavens.

* * * * *

For my part I shall profess a very great esteem for any one who shall add to

*Vide Ahiman Rezon, A. D. 1766, 1764, &c.

the beauty of our glorious art, or by any means improve or enhance the value thereof, and were I assured that this adept had skill sufficient to demonstrate the truth of his assertion, I should pay him the utmost veneration; but until then he must excuse me from being one of his devotees, and I hope that no innocent and worthy brother may at any time be misled by false insinuations or foreign schemes.

"On comparing 'Ahiman Rezon' of A. D. 1756, with this work one can easily see now much brother Dermott was indebted to Dr. D'Assigny for most of what is valuable in that compilation, although the source whence he derived his information is not acknowledged.

"It is quite impossible at this time to discover the name of the imposter mentioned. Both of the authors just noticed refrain from stating who he was, as their aim was rather to 'reform than offend.' We think, however, that Dr. D'Assigny never countenanced anything in Masonry but the three degrees of the Craft, and that he was one of the few who raised their voices against the alterations then being made in the first and second degrees, but who more especially objected to the removal of the lost word from the third degree to the Royal Arch, and the substitution of six or more steps or the 'three material steps' which enabled Master Masons to 'approach the immortal God.' Having attempted to do justice to the memory of Dr. D'Assigny, and thereby claimed him as an advocate of but 'three degrees and no more, in ancient free and accepted Masonry,' I shall conclude my agreeable labors by presenting the finishing observations of that learned Mason. 'In ancient times Lodges were only schools of architecture, and the presiding Masters were generally learned geometers, who took care to instruct their brethren and fellows in the study of the liberal arts and sciences, and for their better government they formed such laws and general regulations as were thought necessary to maintain the harmony and well-being of each particular organized body, and upon the neglect of attendance of either Master or Fellow (when duly summoned) a severe censure was incurred, until he could prove unto the whole Lodge that pure necessity was the motive of his absence.'

"It is heartily to be wished that the knowledge of geometry and architecture, together with the rest of the sciences were the only entertainment of our modern Lodges. If so, what is often unhappily substituted in their places would not prevail as it does, neither ought a man to attain to any dignity in Masonry without first having a competent knowledge in the liberal arts, and I am sorry to say that so few of that stamp are to be met with in the Lodges of this great* metropolis, which defect is certainly owing (as heretofore observed) to the imprudent choice and introduction of their members, for every man formerly (though perhaps of a good and moral reputation) was not admitted into the Craft, nor allowed to share the benefits of our noble institution, unless he was endued with skill in Masonry, as he might thereby be able to improve the art either by plan or workmanship, or had such an affluence of fortune as should enable him to employ, honor, and protect the Craftsmen. I would not be understood by this to mean that no citizen or reputable tradesmen should receive any of our benefits, but on the contrary am of opinion that they are valuable members of the commonwealth, and in consequence would prove real ornaments; but how ridiculous is it to see daily so many persons of low life introduced among us, and when they are admitted into the company of their betters by the assistance of Masonry, they too often act beyond their capacities, and (if the expression may be allowed) soon turn Mason mad, and, under pretence of searching for knowledge, they fall into scenes of gluttony or drunkenness, and thereby neglect their necessary occupations and injure their families, which is not consistent with the known laws, Constitutions, and principles of all true brethren.'

"The by-laws and general regulations of the Lodges in this city are ex-

*We fancy that Dublin is not the only 'great metropolis' of the present day that labors under the manifest disadvantages Dr. D'Assigny points out, as resulting from an improper choice of members, for unsuitable candidates being accepted as members in our Lodges is the crying evil and curse of modern Lodges almost everywhere.

ceedingly well calculated for good management of the Craft, but what avails the best contrived and most salutary laws if they are not put into form and properly executed? To pass over indiscretions is in some measure granting a sanction or approbation of them, wherefore it highly concerns our worthy Master to let no crime remain unrebuked, but duly to admonish the offender, and if he repeats his transgression, to inflict such punishments as they and the brethren shall judge necessary.'

"Having now described the cause of the present decay of Freemasonry, together with some remarks which I hope will be found useful to the brethren, I shall give them the following friendly admonitions and then conclude:

"As the Craft hath subsisted from times immemorial, and contains the most glorious precepts of morality and virtue, let not the malicious world have cause to blame us for any base or degenerate actions, but let us industriously pursue the unerring rule which the Almighty Architect hath given us; let us be united in one sacred bond of love and friendship, and, if there is contention amongst us, let it be in striving who can outdo each other in acts of religion, mercy, charity, and all other good offices.'

"Let us all endeavor to deserve the following true character:

"If all the social virtues of the mind,
If an extensive love to all mankind,
If hospitable welcome to a guest,
And speedy charity to the distressed,
If due regard to liberty and laws,
Zeal for our King, and for our country's cause,
If these are principles deserving fame,
Let Masons then enjoy the praise they claim."

"In consequence of the value of this discovery, I sent a lengthy communication to the S. G. Chapter of Scotland, and suggested their altering the excellent preface to their statutes, so far as it contains a statement that the earliest printed notice of the Royal Arch was dated 1764. According, in the edition of the Laws, (viz: 1869,) the Royal Arch is traced to A. D. 1744, and the Grand Chapter also, in the most handsome manner, acknowledged their indebtedness to me for the discovery.

"As soon as my engagements permit the scarce work will be reprinted, when a copy shall be 'mailed' to you in due course for your acceptance.

"I have plenty of foreign works, from about 1740, which clearly indicate that the *word* of the Third degree was then quite different to *now*, and that the origin of the Royal Arch in this country is to be found in fact of the alteration of the Third degree by the 'seceders.' The 'origin of the Royal Arch,' by the late Rev. George Oliver, D. D., is the best work on the subject, although at that time the above work was not found, yet nearly every matter of importance affecting the degree is noticed by our much respected and revered *Masonic author*. (It is published by R. Spencer, London, at five shillings and six-pence.) The degree is thus traced *in print* for a period of at least *one hundred and twenty-six years*. How absurd, then, for some to state it has only existed since 1776!!

"(b.) The Constitution of the three Grand Chapters, and—

"(c.) Statistics, &c.

"The United Grand Chapter of England was formed A. D. 1817, by virtue of the 'Articles of Union' A. D. 1813, by the incorporation of two Grand Chapters, viz: those of the '*Ancients*' and the '*Moderns*.' The '*Ancients*' had a 'General Grand Chapter' before the 'Union,' recognized by (and in fact a part of) their Grand Lodge, and the Chapters were held under the sanction of the Lodges, no fees for separate warrants being charged. The prere-

quisites were, having taken the three degrees and 'passed the chair.' The Royal Arch by them was called the '*fourth degree*.' The 'Moderns,' however, were, as Royal Arch Masons, not acknowledged by *their Grand Lodge*; but, on the contrary, that body passed a distinct resolution only a few years before the 'Union,' declaring its non-participation in any way with the degree. Hence such brethren, under the rule of the regular Grand Lodge, established a *Grand Chapter*, and granted warrants to work the degree, with certain dues for Constitution and such like. The first edition of their laws was published A. D. 1778, and the *second* A. D. 1782. There has been some discussion as to the date when this Grand Chapter was formed, and it has generally been placed at A. D. 1776. My researches, however, make it at least ten years earlier. I have now before me a warrant issued by this Grand Chapter on the twelfth day of May, A. L. 1773, A. D. 1769, to the 'Euphrates Lodge or the Chapter of the Garden of Eden being No. 2.' On this fact, and also that in the laws of 1778 the year 1766 is mentioned as a date from which all Chapters must be legally constituted by this Grand Chapter (page 15) to secure recognition, I think we may safely conclude that this Supreme Body was formed A. D. 1766, at the latest. *At least such are the results of my examination.* In Masonic Miscellanies by T. Jones, 1797, will be found a list of their Chapters, numbering some *ninety*, the above Chapter, No. 2, being then registered No. 6. *No dates are appended*, neither are any of them noticed in the calendar published by the Grand Lodge of England for the same year, or in fact for any year until after A. D. 1813. The prerequisites for exaltation were similar to those in operation among the 'seceders.'

"Since the two Grand Chapters have been united, the degree has been recognized by the Grand Lodge of England, but only as a part of the Third degree, and not as a *fourth*. *This body recognizes none beside*, although it tolerates any degrees being worked so long as they are kept distinct from Craft Masonry.

"In Scotland the Grand Chapter was formed A. D. 1817, but for about seventy years before the degree was worked in that country, although irregularly. The Grand Lodge of Scotland only recognizes the three Craft degrees AND THE MARK. The Royal Arch is represented by an independent Grand Chapter, and is worked differently to England, as the Mark, Past Master, Excellent Master, and the 'Veils' are required preparatory to the degree of Royal Arch being taken. This Body has granted warrants to work the *Mark* degree in England, notwithstanding the legal formation of a Grand Lodge to work that degree A. D. 1856, and which now has one hundred Mark Lodges *under its rule*, and is an excellent working order. In Ireland the Grand Lodge is confined to the Craft, only it and all the older Grand Bodies are in unison, and a regular series or grade of degrees, from the First to the *Thirty-third*, is reciprocally worked. The Grand Chapter only gives the Mark, 'Veils,' and Royal Arch degree. Before a brother can take the Rose Croix he is required to be of thirty-three years of age, seven years a Master Mason, and to have been admitted a Mark Master, Royal Arch, Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, Knight of the East and West, Knight Templar, and Knight of Malta, and have been a Master of a Lodge for six months! The degrees of '*Royal and Select Masters*' are not known in either country, and are virtually

given in the first degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, of which they are copies. The Grand Chapter of Ireland approaches the nearest to Capital Masonry in the United States, although, as in England and Ireland, 'High Priesthood' is not recognized.

"In England the Royal Arch is most carefully worked, is exclusive in its membership, and has attained a high degree of perfection, especially in London, where many of its preceptors are able exponents and ritualists of the sublime mysteries of the Order.

"Under the Grand Lodge of England there are over 1,200 active Lodges, 400 Royal Arch Chapters, and 100 Mark Lodges (under Grand Lodge of Mark Masters.) The Lodges at the 'Union of 1813' were taken alternately from the 'Ancients' and 'Moderns,' the latter coming first, so that the mere number is not an evidence of date alone, as *e.g.*, No. 2 is much older than No. 1, and so No. 4 than 3, and No. 2 and 4 than the Grand Stewards' Lodge, which comes first. The 'Moderns' are easily recognized by turning to the calendar published by the Grand Lodge, as *those only* have the dates of their constitution given before 1813. As each Chapter takes the number of the Lodge to which it is attached, it would be wrong to suppose that, as the last Chapter mentioned in the calendar for 1870 is No. 1,222, that there were over one thousand Chapters under England, as some of our American friends have done, whereas, in reality, there are not now half that number.

"The Grand Lodge of Ireland has some 400 Lodges, and the Grand Chapter has about 80 Chapters on its roll. The latter are numbered according to the Lodges under which they work.

"In Scotland there are also about 400 Lodges [*note*] (although the last granted bears the number 1,014 *under Ireland* in 1869, there are not 500 really in existence in that country, as the numbers are not altered every now and then as in England especially, and in Scotland, the vacancies being occasioned by Lodges resigning warrants on forming new Grand Lodges abroad.) The Grand Chapter musters some 100 Chapters and about 12 Mark Lodges working under its authority out of that country.

"The Grand Lodge of England has done a great work. 'The immense Masonic constellation that now shines in the far Pacific seas has arisen in light and beauty of late years. Remote and almost mystical corners of the globe have received the benefits of Freemasonry under its auspices. From Japan to Gibraltar, from the Gold Coast to the Himalayan Mountains, through the ancient empire of Cathay and the bleak regions of Newfoundland, the blessings of our friendly Craft have been spread through its fostering care,' and what is more, it is virtually the great parent of every Grand Lodge under the sun, and the *Grand* mother of about two millions of Masons now walking the earth, who, if they but followed its teachings, might soon change this world into a moral (as well as it is now, a terrestrial) paradise.

"My work is done! Accept my fraternal greeting.

"WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

"*Note.*—Royal Arch Masonry, as in Great Britain, is only worked where the English language is spoken verbally. It is unknown in France, Germany, and in fact everywhere but in England, Scotland, Ireland, the United States, and British possessions.

"The ancient and accepted Scottish Rite, in the 13°, supplies the main features for the foreign brethren.

"W. J. H.

"To the Ill. and M.^c. E.^c. Companion JOHN EDWIN MASON, M. D., &c.

"From Mr. William J. Hughan, P. M., No. 131, Truro, Prov. Grand Sec'y for Cornwall, Hon'y Member 'Mother Lodge, Kelwinning,' Scotland; No. 1,195, London; No. 415, Glasgow; No. 1,222 Chapter Weston; No. 18, Chapter Ayr, Scotland, &c., &c., &c., author of 'Constitutions of the Freemasons,' &c."

To say that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence are under great obligations to this Eminent Companion for this vast amount of useful information feebly expresses their feelings. The sincere thanks of our Companions here in the Capital of the United States are tendered, with the assurances that more light has been shed on Royal Arch Masonry by this learned Companion than has been received from any other source across the Atlantic.

Appropriate to this subject we add the following from one of the lectures of Companion William R. Singleton, the well known Masonic antiquarian and archaeologist of this city :

"The Royal Arch degree was introduced into England in A. D. 1740, by Chevalier Ramsey, at the time of the great dissensions between the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge at York. Ramsey sought by Masonry to advance the interests of the Pretender, and he claimed that this degree originated in the 'Holy Land.' He was rejected by the Grand Lodge, and he then sought alliance with those called the 'Ancients,' or Seceders. Lawrence Dermott, being for many years their leader and most active spirit, sought by this degree to draw attention to the Ancient Lodges, and claimed for Masonry four degrees when the moderns, or the Grand Lodge, knew of but three. In 1756 he published the *Ahiman Rezon*, with similar statements in it. His degree, however, was not precisely like the Ramsey, but was evidently derived from it. The Grand Lodge did not recognize the degree as late as 1758. The Grand Lodge of the Ancients was formed about A. D. 1753, and authorized the conferring of the four degrees, and Dermott says that the opinion of W. Brother Dr. Fitfield D'Assigney was, 'that no one had a right to the fourth degree unless they had passed the Chair and given undeniable proofs of their skill,' and therefore must have been *Actual Past Masters*.

"Thomas Dunckerley, an illegitimate son of George II., was chosen Master of a Lodge in 1770, and soon became Grand Master, visiting the Ancient Lodges, became acquainted with the new degree, and resolved that 'they should not appropriate a single pearl of any value towards the elucidation of the Craft.' He remodeled it and revised the lecture, presented the degree to the Grand Lodge. It was found that the practice of this degree required a change in the Master's degree—a removal and a substitution; says Dr. Oliver, 'a transfer of the Master's Word.' It withstood the attacks made upon it by the influence of the Duke of Clarence and the brilliancy and genius of Dunckerley, and since 1779 the Holy Royal Arch has been cultivated under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England and declared to be a part of Ancient Masonry. In connection with this history I may state that after this period, during the revival of Masonry and its introduction into various countries, no less than

three thousand degrees were manufactured claiming to be Masonic, or like thereto, all made within a period of three-quarters of a century.

"Some were useful, instructive, and worthy of cultivation. Among these were the twenty-five degrees of the Rite of Perfection, which first appeared in France, A. D. 1758, introduced into this country, 1764. Eight degrees were afterwards added, making thirty-three, and styled the 'Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.' The thirteenth of each of these was, and is, the Royal Arch, known as Enoch's Arch, Knights of the Ninth Arch, and the Ancient Arch of King Solomon.

"From A. D. 1740 to 1779 there were four degrees called Royal Arch, or phases of it, neither of which are practiced in this country under the authority of the General Grand Chapter :

1. Ramsey's Royal Arch.....	A. D. 1740
2. Dermott's Holy Royal Arch.....	" 1750
3. R. A. of the Rite of Perfection.....	" 1758
4. Dunckerley's Holy Royal Arch.....	" 1779
Add the 5th, Webb's, or American, about.....	" 1796-7

"The Webb, or American degree, practiced in the United States, differs from all the others, and when first promulgated by Webb, in 1797, was a new degree, composed of a little from the Rite of Perfection, from Dermott's, and Dunckerley's, with a cementation of new matter."

* * * * *

It is a well-established fact that Webb remodeled the Royal Arch degree and revised it from the English work; and the degree as now conferred in the United States was prepared by Thomas Smith Webb. He added the Past Master's degree, and took the Mark Master's degree from the solitary condition in which he found it in the *Mark Lodge*, and annexed it to the Chapter, thus making three degrees. He soon after prepared in his fertile brain still another degree, entirely unknown across the Atlantic at this date, which he called the Most Excellent Master, which is the shortest, but most beautiful, in the Chapter degrees. This was at once adopted as one of the four degrees in Capitular Masonry, and thus the work as now conferred in the United States sprung into existence.

GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

Until the Franco-Prussian war interrupted communication with Paris, we received bi-monthly the bulletins of the Grand Orient. Up to May the bulletins contained nothing of particular interest to our Companions on this side of the Atlantic. To that date, about three hundred pages had been published in the French language, all of which has been carefully perused.

It is well known that King William and the Crown Prince of Prussia received their degrees in Masonry in Paris many years ago, and authentic information, recently received, makes it certain that the Lodges in Paris have demanded their expulsion by the Grand Orient. Acceding to the popular clamor, the Grand Orient has expelled them on a trumped up charge of violating their obligations.

Masons throughout the civilized world will be apt to look upon this pro-

ceeding as a Masonic persecution, brought about by the excited state of feeling consequent upon the war. It is certain that if any trial was granted in the case, the defendants, from the nature of the situation, could not have responded to the summons, and they must have been sentenced on ex-parte testimony.

In common with Masons all over the earth, we regret the result of these proceedings, which show that passion and prejudice rules the hour in the French Capital.

A large number of the Grand Chapters in the United States have taken action, the past year, on the appeal from the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, and passed resolutions denouncing the Grand Orient for interfering with the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of that State, and recognizing a spurious and illegal body in Louisiana with a show of pompous authority unwarranted and wholly unmasonic. In consequence of this action several Grand Chapters in the United States have severed all fraternal intercourse with the Grand Orient, and will no longer recognize a Mason applying for admission to our Lodges and Chapters hailing from Paris. In all the leading cities of the United States there are many French Masons who are thus excluded from recognition, and who consider themselves innocent of wrong, and who feel that the guillotine falls upon them without sufficient cause. The following decree from the Grand Consistory is the cause of this action in the different Grand Lodges and Chapters :

"This is to certify that at the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Consistory of the 32d D.°. A.°. & A.°. Scottish Rite for the State of Louisiana, held in the city of New Orleans on the 13th day of January, 1869, V.°. E.°, corresponding to the first day of the Hebrew month Sebat, A.°. M.°. 5629, the following preamble and resolution were offered and unanimously adopted :

"WHEREAS, The Grand Orient of France has, by a decree of Grand Master Mellinet, dated November 5th, 1868, not only recognized and entered into fraternal relations with the so-called Supreme Council of the A.°. A.°. S.°. Rite for the 'Sovereign and Independent State of Louisiana,' by granting it mutual representation after having, in 1858, declared it spurious and clandestine and expelled its chief because he did not on its order dissolve his illegal assemblies, and because the report of A. Hermitte, 33d, upon which the said decree is based, admits that the said Supreme Council of Louisiana is a self-constituted and self-created body, possessing no legal authority, but justifying the course pursued by the Grand Orient of France on socialistic and political movements, with which we as Masons can have nothing to do. Be it, therefore,—

"Resolved, That all fraternal intercourse be discontinued with the Grand Orient of France, and that no Mason owing allegiance to the Grand Orient of France shall be recognized as such in this jurisdiction, and that all Masons paying obedience to this Grand Consistory are prohibited from holding Masonic communication with them."

The following is the official decree issued by the Grand Orient of France :

"ART. I. From this date official and friendly relations are established between the Grand Orient of France and the Supreme Council of the A.°. and A.°. S.°. Rite of the State of Louisiana, sitting at the East of New Orleans.

The fraternal ties which henceforth unite these two Masonic powers will ultimately be further strengthened by the reciprocal appointment of representatives.

"ART. II. Our Deputy Grand Master, the Ill. Brother Alfred Blanche, is intrusted with the promulgation of this decree.

"Given at the hall of the Grand Orient of France, this 5th day of November, 1868.

"MELLINET, *Grand Master of the Order.*

"By the Grand Master :

"ALFRED BLANCHE, *D. G. M.*"

By virtue of authority decreed by the Grand Orient, this illegal body chartered other illegal bodies, and thus begun to invade the jurisdiction of Louisiana.

The Grand Chapter then passed the following resolution, and asked other Grand Chapters to do likewise :

"*Resolved*, That all Masonic correspondence and fraternal relations between the M. . E. . G. . R. . A. . C. . of Louisiana and the Grand Orient of France cease and be discontinued, and no Mason holding allegiance to that Grand Body be recognized as such in this jurisdiction."

At the session of the Grand Orient, when official recognition was given, an elaborate report was made by Hermitte, a "member of the Council of Order," and an excited discussion took place. The following is a translation of the discussion, which shows their side of the question :

One of the speakers said : "We regret that in 1869, after more than a century's existence, French Freemasonry should be under the necessity of proclaiming anew those principles which are disclosed in her temples, and with which she has, as with a glory, crowned the great principles of 1769 by inscribing over the portals of her temples these eternal truths, our ancient device, 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.' [Applause.]

"We regret that Freemasonry should be obliged to proclaim anew a principle which, for so long a period—thanks to her—has had a place in our laws : 'He who touches the soil of France, or he who is covered by her flag, is free.' [Bravos.]

"We have proclaimed to the world for so long a time these great principles that we should not have occasion to proclaim them now. They will remain forever engraved in our hearts, and we will always be as ready to defend them as to proclaim them." [Great applause.]

The following resolution was then offered :

"The Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France, by their legal representatives regularly convoked in the Annual Assembly of 1869, affirm that humanity and Masonry are outraged when color, race, or religion are deemed sufficient to interdict a profane from initiation into the great Masonic family."

The mover then said : "I also propose to request the Illustrious Grand Master to notify all the foreign Masonic powers of this our action, and to make known to them that hereafter, and from this time forth, *the Grand Orient of France breaks all alliance with every Masonic power which does not recognize this declaration.*"

The mover continued: "The moment the motion is taken on these propositions, the moment the Grand Orator has concluded, let us, with unanimous acclamation, cover with our French batteries [a Masonic phrase] and crown our declaration, so French and so humanitarian." These words were received with prolonged applause. The resolutions were then adopted unanimously, and the vote was followed with applause.

The Grand Master then proposed to the Assembly a triple battery to the Masons of all countries, to all brethren, without distinction, to equality among men, and that liberty and universal fraternity which we come to proclaim and of which we are the defenders. These words were received with the triple applause, given with enthusiasm.

While the grounds taken in this discussion appear tenable, and in accordance with ancient Masonry, still it must not be forgotten that there existed in Louisiana, when this illegal body was formed, a Grand Lodge and a Grand Chapter, having exclusive jurisdiction over the territory within that State. According to all established usage and jurisprudence recognized by every Masonic authority on earth, except the Grand Orient of France, the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and the General Grand Chapter of the United States, these Grand Bodies held complete jurisdiction over Louisiana, and no other authority could be recognized. To acknowledge any other would be to admit that Potomac Chapter, in this District, could exist under any other authority than our Grand Chapter, and thus violate Masonic law, as the General Grand Chapter has done.

Companion Cunningham, of Ohio, in his report, makes the following pertinent remarks on this case:

"In Anderson's Constitutions, published in 1723, sixty years previous to the declaration of the principles of the so-called French Masonry of 1783, we read that 'the qualifications of a man to be made a Mason are, that he must be a good and true man, free-born, and of mature and discreet age; no lewd man, no woman, no immoral or scandalous man, but of good report, and a perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body.' This regulation is now, as it was then, an unalterable and fundamental landmark universally in force in all legitimate bodies of Craft Masonry in the United States and Great Britain. From the foregoing, and from the fact, so far as known to your committee, that no Masonic body in the United States has ever adopted any regulation making color a qualification, it is self-evident that any man who believes in the existence of God, and who possesses the above-mentioned qualifications, may petition any Lodge for initiation, and if he receives the unanimous consent, by ballot, of the Lodge, he may be initiated. The animus of the whole matter is an attempt to coerce American Lodges to recognize as Masonic bodies, and its members as Masons, the illegitimate offspring of a Lodge which was declared at its inception to be clandestine and irregular, and which in fact never had, as it were, a year's working existence, the Grand Body to whom it owed its formation having, for lack of jurisdiction and other reasons, revoked its charter. This same so-called St. John's Lodge being long after clandestinely resuscitated, without charter or warrant, commenced making so-called Masons, and thence the formation of other so-called Lodges, Grand Lodges, and a General Grand Lodge. The most powerful

enemies for evil ever brought upon our ancient and honorable institution have ever been the innovating, atheistic radicalism, pervading to such an extent in French Masonry, with its outcroppings in the United States and elsewhere, and the Ritual tinkers, who, under the sacred veil of religion, seek, through like inventions, to undermine the purity and universality of Masonry, by removing its landmarks and making it sectarian in its character."

It has always been the ambition of the Grand Orient of France to be acknowledged as the supreme governing power in Masonry throughout the world; and, in order to gain a foothold in foreign countries, it has invaded foreign jurisdictions and established itself where Grand Bodies already existed.

While the Catholic influence of France has always opposed Masonry, it has rolled in the dust, at the feet of Catholic emperors, and allowed Grand Masters, who are *not* Masons, to be appointed by the Emperor and the Catholic power behind the throne.

If the General Grand Chapter should ask the President of the United States to appoint a General Grand High Priest and he should appoint a *profane* to that position, and we should acknowledge him as such, and bow down before him, then Capitular Masonry in this country would resemble that in France now governed by the Grand Orient.

But all these idiosyncracies of French Masonry pass into insignificance, when compared to this great objection we urge against it. Freemasonry in France has been the nursery of atheism and rank infidelity, for more than a century, until Masons outside of France have become disgusted with a system that does not recognize Almighty God as the Grand Architect of the Universe. In every other country on the face of the earth, the candidate must acknowledge his belief in a God, before he can be made a Mason. No requirement like this comes from France. The very foundation of Masonry in the United States, is not only not acknowledged by France, but Masonry has been an asylum for deists and atheists.

As a distinguished Companion in New York has contradicted our statements heretofore made, that Voltaire was a Mason, we append the official information, and ask him to retract his statements.

The following details respecting the initiation of Voltaire is translated from "Correspondence Litteraire Philosophique, et Critique," of the Baron de Grimm. It is in Tome IV., pp. 322-327, date of December, 1778, and called "An Extract from the Minutes of the Worshipful Lodge of the Nine Sisters at Paris, the seventeenth day of the fourth month, A. L. 5778," now in the Congressional Library.

"Brother the Abbe Cordier de Saint Firmin announced to the Grand Lodge that he had the pleasure of presenting M. Voltaire for initiation, as an Entered Apprentice Freemason. He remarked that a society whose character was as much literary as it was Masonic, must be flattered by this desire of the most celebrated man in France, and he trusted that, in the course of the reception, due regard would be paid to the advanced age and feeble health of the illustrious candidate."

The Worshipful Master, Brother De Lalande, (a distinguished astronomer,) collected the votes of the R. W. Brother Bacon de la Chevalrie, Grand Orator of the Grand Orient, and of all the members of the Lodge; which were found

to be favorable to the applicant. The Master then appointed R. W. Brother the Count de Stroganoff, and Brothers Cailhava, the President Meslai, Mercier, the Marquis de Lort, Brinon, the Abbe Remy, Fabroni, and Dufresne, to prepare the candidate. He was introduced by brother the Chevalier de Villars, and as soon as he had contracted the O. B., it was announced to the Lodge by the brethren of the Columns of Euterpe, Terpsichore, and Erato, who executed the first part of the third symphony of the Grand Orchestra of Guenin. Brother Capperon led the Orchestra, Brother Chic, first violinist to the Elector of Mayence, was at the head of the second violins, and brothers Salantin, Caravoglio, Olinet, Balza, Lurschmidt, &c., united with them to express the general joy of the Lodge, by the exercise of those musical talents so well known to the public, and particularly to the Lodge of the Nine Sisters.

After having received the necessary instruction, Brother Voltaire was placed in the east, at the side of the Worshipful Master. One of the brethren of the Column of Melpomene now placed upon his brow a crown of laurel, which, however, Voltaire immediately removed. The Worshipful Master then clothed him with the apron formerly belonging to Helvetius, (the famous author,) which the widow of that illustrious philosopher had deposited in the Lodge of the Nine Sisters. On receiving this apron Brother Voltaire kissed it. He was also invested with the customary jewels of the Lodge.

When he was presented with the ladies' gloves he said to brother the Marquis de Villet, "Since the presentation of these gloves presupposes an attachment that is virtuous, tender, and deserving, I pray you to bestow them on La Belle et Bonne."

Worshipful Master de Lalande then delivered to Voltaire a very flattering and congratulatory speech, to which he responded, and said he had never experienced anything more calculated to inspire him with vanity, or with the sentiment of gratitude.

Poems were recited in his honor by La Dixmere, Garnier, Grorvelle, and others.

During the exercises, Brother Monet, painter to the King, designed the portrait of Voltaire.

After further music by the Orchestra, a great banquet was served, at which toasts were drank and laudatory speeches made, after which the multitude of people on the streets received him with acclamations.

IRELAND.

Our Grand Secretary has mailed our proceedings to this Grand Chapter, he informs your committee, but never received a reply. We regret exceedingly that our Irish Companions do not desire to open correspondence with their fraters in America, where so many of their kinsmen have settled. There is no Grand Chapter in the United States in correspondence with the Grand Chapter of Ireland. For some reason, to us unknown, they maintain to Masonry, what Japan has hitherto to commerce—an exclusive condition not in accordance with the cherished principles of Masonry. Here, in the Capital of the United States, we mingle continually with brothers from every part of the civilized world, and our Irish fraters form an important element in our foreign

population. For these reasons we would gladly hail the opening of correspondence with this ancient Grand Chapter.

From the "Universal Masonic Calendar," we have obtained a little information respecting the Grand Chapter of Ireland. Its officers are, His Grace the Duke of Leinster, King; Sir Edward Borough, High Priest, and John H. Goddard, Chief Scribe. The Grand Secretary is C. T. Walmisley of Dublin. There are eighty-one Chapters on the roll that were represented at the last Annual Convocation. The total number of chartered Chapters appears to be 935. Many of these are located in different parts of the earth. A Provincial Grand Chapter, under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, seems to be located at Melbourne, Victoria.

SCOTLAND.

We take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the "Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland's Reporter," from March, 1860, to March, 1870.

We salute this ancient Grand Chapter, the oldest on the earth, with feelings of respect and admiration. To open correspondence with this *alma-mater* of the Royal Craft gives pride and satisfaction to all the Companions in the Capital of the United States. Only two Grand Chapters in America have been thus honored—Tennessee and South Carolina.

In presenting this salutatory to the Craft in Auld Scotia, we assure them, one and all, that their Companions in America entertain for them the highest regard and most distinguished consideration. We trust that the correspondence so auspiciously begun may be productive of good to both parties.

To all our Scottish Companions we can say, in the language of their own loved Robert Burns:

"Within your dear mansion may wayward contention,
Or withering envy ne'er enter;
May secrecy round, be the mystical bound,
And brotherly love be the centre."

And, in the words of Brother Burns to St. James' Lodge at Tarbolton, we say:

"May freedom, harmony, and love,
Unite with you in the grand design,
Beneath th' Omniscient Eye above,
The glorious Architect divine!
That you may keep th' unerring line,
Still rising by the plummet's law,
Till order bright completely shine,
Shall be my prayer when far awa'."

The Right Honorable, the Earl of Dalhousie, is First Grand Principal; J. Whyte Melville, Past First Grand Principal; Sam'l Somerville, of Ampherlaw, Deputy Grand Principal; the Right Honorable, the Earl of Haddington, Second Grand Principal; the Honorable Lord Erskine, Third Grand Principal; Lindsay Mackersy, Grand Scribe Ezra.

From March, 1869, to March, 1870, two charters were granted to Chapters, one named "Homer," at Smyrna; the other, "Amity," at Queenstown, Cape of Good Hope. During the preceding year charters were granted to Chapters at Shanghai, China; Picton, N. S.; Adelaide, Cape of good Hope; St. Stephen, N. B.; Trinidad, W. I.; and at Galashiels.

There are 101 Chapters on the roll, under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, located all over the globe, and 25 Chapters now ten years in arrears for dues and returns.

There are eleven Mark Lodges put down on the Reporter, and twelve given as "dormant." The small number of Mark Lodges, as compared with Chapters, together with the fact that more lie dormant than are in active operation, shows conclusively that the separation of the Mark degree from the Chapters is not popular in Scotland, and the quicker the Mark degree is conferred in Royal Arch Chapters, as in America, the better it will be for that degree.

After Grand Secretary Larner had sent our proceedings for 1869 to Scotland, he received the following letter from Grand Secretary Mackersy after the same had been presented to the Grand Chapter of Scotland officially, and it had voted to open correspondence with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia:

"SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND,
"SCRIBE'S CHAMBERS, 3 NORTH ST. DAVID STREET,
"EDINBURGH, 17th June, 1870.

"M. E. AND DEAR SIR AND COMPANION: I duly received your letter along with the published proceedings of the Grand Lodge and Chapter of Columbia, U. S., and I laid them before the Supreme Chapter at its Quarterly Communication, held of yesterday's date. I am instructed to convey to the Grand Chapter of Columbia the thanks of the Supreme Chapter therefor.

"I have despatched herewith to your address, per book post, a copy of the Annual Reporter of the Supreme Chapter. I would suggest, however, for your consideration, whether it would not be better, with a view to promoting a friendly feeling between our Grand Chapters, that we should interchange representatives.

"If you approve of this suggestion be so kind as to favor me with the name of a Companion residing within your jurisdiction, to be brought before the Supreme Chapter for appointment as our representative at your Grand Chapter, and I shall send you the name of a Companion residing here to represent you at our Grand Chapter.

"With reference to the statement in your letter as to copies of your proceedings formerly sent to me without being acknowledged, I may mention that I have no recollection of ever receiving such. It is our invariable practice here, when we receive the proceedings of any sister Chapter, to lay them before the First Communication of the Supreme Chapter, and notice of this is inserted in our proceedings. As I do not find any such notice regarding your printed proceedings, I conclude I cannot have received them.

"Waiting the favor of your reply, I am,

"M. E. and Dear Sir and Companion, yours fraternally,

"L. MACKERSY, G. S. E., S. C. of Scotland.

"NOBLE D. LARNER, Esq., Grand Secretary G. C. of Dist. of Col., Washington City, United States."

In accordance with the above request, our late Grand High Priest, B. B. French, sent the name of Grand Secretary Noble D. Larner as the representative of Scotland near this Grand Chapter, and the official notification has arrived of this appointment, and will no doubt be promulgated at the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, and Scotland's representative properly received.

CONCLUSION.

Our labors for 1870 on this report are brought to a close. They have been tiresome and fatiguing, for the reason that we have been compelled to do all the work at hours when our Companions are nearly all sleeping. Twice as much time has been consumed in carefully reading the four thousand pages of proceedings, and writing the report, as in past years.

We have tried to be brief. If our Companions abroad complain that but little space is devoted to their proceedings, they will see the cause when they turn to the unusual amount of matter, aside from this report, that fills this year's proceedings. The eloquent eulogy by Comp. Joseph T. Brown on our late Grand High Priest, B. B. FRENCH, will occupy much space, but will be welcomed, both at home and abroad, as the most valuable contribution these pages contain. We desire to add, that our Grand Chapter has appointed a committee, of which the writer is chairman, to compile the Masonic works of our late distinguished frater, and publish them, and thereby give to the Masonic literature of America a valuable contribution. His Masonic contributions, in prose and poetry, extend through a period of thirty years, and many of his most valuable articles, published many years ago, are not now to be found. We therefore make a direct appeal to all Royal Arch Masons abroad to send to us here anything they may possess of his works. All such shall be returned, if requested, in good condition. They can be sent by mail or express to the author of this report.

The monument we desire to erect to his memory is the publication of his Masonic works. Such a monument will stand when marble crumbles to the dust.

We appeal especially to those Companions and Sir Knights who knew him personally in the dark days of Anti-Masonry, during the last quarter of a century, to aid us in this labor of love now undertaken as a tribute to his memory.

The author of this report is also compiling the complete works of that eminent Mason, JEREMY L. CROSS, from much data and unpublished manuscripts now in his possession. He requests the numerous friends of this distinguished Mason to forward to him anything they may have in their possession from his pen which has or has not been published heretofore. All such contributions will be carefully returned. As a quarter of a century of his life was spent in the Southern States, many of his old friends in these States may be able to send valuable contributions.

Because we gave a synopsis of the condition of Capitular Masonry in West Virginia in our report for 1869, we notice that several reports have come to hand this year with the name of this new State inserted in their tables, as

though a Grand Chapter existed there. This is a mistake. All the Chapters in that State are still working under the authority of Virginia. The only States now without Grand Chapters are Nevada and West Virginia.

Having read more than forty addresses of Grand High Priests at the opening of Annual Convocations, we have been struck with the decided similarity of ideas, and particularly with the opening sentences. Several of them have an opening salutatory to the Craft, couched in whining cant and commonplace platitudes, such as have been handed down with traditional accuracy from time immemorial. Nine have the opening substantially the same, and five have it *verbatim et literatim*. If the man is living who invented the original Grand High Priest's address, and he will write to us, we will get him a patent for his invention in the U. S. Patent Office here, to prevent others from stealing his thunder. If he is dead, and it is conceded that the address killed him, let his heirs apply. The author will unquestionably say,—

"He steals my purse steals trash,
'Twas mine, 'tis his, it has been food for thousands,
But he that robs me of my WHINING CANT,
Takes what enriches not himself, but makes me poor indeed."

Our fraters abroad will please accept the compliments of our Companions in the National Capital, with their sympathy and esteem. Prosperity and success has never crowned a single year's labor in Capitular Masonry here equal to that just closed.

Our numbers have rapidly increased, and harmony and good feeling everywhere prevails. Our troubles in the formation of our Grand Chapter have been buried and forgotten. Smiling and happy faces meet now, where all was sorrow, anger, and anxiety three years ago. A beautiful Temple has been completed the past year in Washington, costing \$200,000, in which a Chapter Chamber is magnificently furnished, and where we are anxious to greet our Companions from every part of the world. A Royal Arch welcome will here be extended to all. Our Council fires are burning brightly—let us smoke the pipe of peace around them.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN EDWIN MASON,
Chairman Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

[From the proceedings of Mississippi.]

MASONIC CALENDAR.

ANCIENT CRAFT MASONS commence their era with the creation of the world, calling it **Anno Lucis* (A. L.), "in the year of Light."

— SCOTCH RITE, same as Ancient Craft, except the Jewish Chronology is used, *Anno Mundi* (A. M.), "in the year of the World."

ROYAL ARCH MASONS date from the year the second Temple was commenced by Zerubbabel, *Anno Inventoris* (A. Inv.), "in the year of the Discovery."

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS date from the year in which the Temple of Solo-

*Not claimed to be coeval with the Creation, but has symbolic reference to the Light of Masonry.

mon was completed, *Anno Depositionis* (A. Dep.), "in the year of the Deposit."

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR commence their era with the organization of their Order, *Anno Ordipis* (A. O.), "in the year of the Order."

RULES FOR MASONIC DATES.

1. ANCIENT CRAFT.—Add 4000 years to the common time. Thus: 1869 and 4000=5869.

2. SCOTCH RITE.—Add 3760 to the common era. Thus: 1869 and 3760=5629.

After September add another year.

3. ROYAL ARCH.—Add 530 years to the vulgar era. Thus: 1869 and 530=2399.

4. ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.—Add 1000 to the common time. Thus: 1869 and 1000=2869.

5. KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.—From the Christian era take 1118. Thus: 1118 from 1869=751.

THE PRESENT.

Year of the Lord, A. D.	1870—Christian Era.
Year of Light, A. L.	5870—Ancient Craft.
Year of the World, A. M.	5630—Scotch Rite.
Year of the Discovery, A. Inv.	2400—Royal Arch.
Year of the Deposit, A. Dep.	2870—Royal and Select Masters.
Year of the Order, A. O.	752—Knights Templar.

Companion Mason submitted the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted:

WHEREAS, The distinguished Masonic author and historian, M. E. Companion William James Hughan, Grand Secretary of Cornwall, England, &c., &c., has kindly furnished the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of this Grand Chapter with a valuable synopsis of the history and present condition of Capitular Masonry in Great Britain, at the request of this committee, therefore—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand Chapter be officially transmitted to our Eminent Companion, Hughan, for this gift so highly appreciated, together with ten copies of the proceedings of our Grand Chapter for 1870, for distribution in Great Britain.

Companion Brown, from the Special Committee, submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased the Grand Architect of the Universe to call unto himself our beloved Companion and esteemed Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Benjamin Brown French, at the advanced age of three score years and ten, and after a long life spent in the paths of duty, usefulness, and honor:—

Resolved, That while bowing our heads with affliction, and deeply lamenting the loss which we as individuals, as a Grand Chapter, and as members of the great Masonic brotherhood, have sustained, we recognize in this dispensation of sorrow from an Omniscient Providence the loving hand of our Supreme High Priest, who doeth all things well, unto his own glory, and for our good.

Resolved, That in the life and character of our deceased Companion we witness the record of a true and good man; a lifetime devoted to the improvement of himself and humanity; a career strongly marked by intelligence, energy, integrity, and honor, and a heart overflowing with those better qualities of our nature which always command for its possessor the love, esteem, and gratitude of his fellow-men.

Resolved, That in the decease of our beloved Companion our whole fraternity has sustained an irreparable loss; the loss not only of a cherished brother, but also of one of the ablest expounders of our laws, one of the most enthusiastic advocates of our peculiar tenets, and one of the brightest exemplars, in his life and practice, of the sublime principles of our great moral institution; and that as an author, jurist, and especially as a poet, he has erected to himself a noble monument that shall endure until the revolutions of time shall have ceased and given place to an unchanging and ever-present eternity.

Resolved, That the lessons of such lives as his should incite in us an emulation of their many virtues, and that, profiting by the bright example of his brilliant career, we will endeavor to follow in his footsteps and so "apply our hearts unto wisdom" that when we, too, are called to pass over the dark and bitter river we may, like him, "enjoy the happy reflection consequent on a well-spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality."

Resolved, That we tender to the afflicted family of our deceased Companion the sympathy of brethren in this their sad bereavement, begging them to allow us to unite in their mourning for one who has in so many ways endeared himself to each and every one of us.

Resolved, That these resolutions be displayed in full upon our records; that a copy of them be engrossed and transmitted to the family of our lamented Most Excellent Grand High Priest; and that a page of our printed proceedings be dedicated as an humble memorial to his high and estimable character as a man and as a Mason.

JOS. T. BROWN,
A. T. LONGLEY,
ROS. A. FISH.

The Grand Visitor and Lecturer submitted the following report, which was received, the recommendation contained therein adopted, and ordered to be printed with the proceedings:

To the Officers and Members of the Grand R. A. Chapter of D. C.

COMPANIONS: Since the last Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, I have endeavored to meet the requirements of the Constitution by visiting the Chapters and correcting work; but, in consequence of removal to Masonic Temple, and subsequent recess of many of the Chapters meeting therein, the

Companions, on resumption of labor, were not as proficient as they might have been, and, although no school for instruction has been held since our occupancy of the same, I have met most of the officers and Companions by appointment, and thus communicated the work and lectures, and am pleased to say there is a decided improvement since my last report.

I have not visited Washington Naval and Potomac Chapters as frequently as I should have done, in consequence of both meeting the same evening, but a change has recently been made in the meetings of Potomac which will enable the Grand Visitor and Lecturer to attend *each* in accordance with the regulations.

I would suggest that the Grand Chapter recommend that an evening be designated, and the use of the Chapter chamber tendered the Grand Visitor and Lecturer one evening in each month (said evening being inserted in the calendar) for the purpose of instruction, and request a concurrence in the same by the Subordinate Chapters; this would overcome the necessity of making arrangements with the several Chapters each month, thus enabling us to have a more general attendance, and be of great benefit.

I desire to express my appreciation of the courtesy and kindness extended to me by the officers of the several Chapters during my visits, which has always rendered my task an agreeable one, and I will ever recur to the past with feelings of delight.

Respectfully submitted.

C. W. HANCOCK, *G. V. and L.*

Comp. Grand Secretary submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That when a Brother has been elected to receive the degrees in a Chapter, and an objection is entered to his receiving them by a member of the Chapter in good standing, the degrees shall not be conferred upon the Brother so long as the objection shall remain, but should the Companion who made the objection cease to be a member of the Chapter from any cause, the objection shall fall and the Brother be entitled to have the degrees conferred upon him, unless the objection shall be renewed by a member in good standing in the Chapter.

Comp. Grand Secretary presented a commission from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, appointing him Grand Representative of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which was received and the Companion recognized as such.

The following bills were presented and ordered to be paid:

Masonic Hall Association, for rent to November 1, 1870, \$50; H. King, jr., for crape and gloves, \$36; J. L. Pearson, for printing, \$6.50; Morsell & Dearing, for case in office of Grand Secretary, \$100; Sunday Herald, for advertising, \$6; Evening Star, for advertising, \$6.25; music at funeral of Grand High Priest B. B. French, \$66.

On motion, the Special Committee, consisting of the Grand Visitor and Lecturer and the High Priests of the Subordinate Chapters, was authorized to select a night for holding the school of instruction recommended by the Grand Visitor and Lecturer in his annual report.

The following amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, submitted at the Semi-annual Convocation, was adopted :

Amend Art. I. of Sec. 2 to read as follows : There shall be two stated Convocations of this Grand Chapter in each year, viz., the Annual, on the second Tuesday in November, and the Semi-Annual, on the second Tuesday in May, which Convocations shall be held in the city of Washington, the Annual at seven o'clock, and the Semi-Annual at half-past seven o'clock p. m.

On motion, the Grand Treasurer was authorized to borrow, for the use of the Grand Chapter, the sum of \$300, should the same be required.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following Companions were elected :

Comp. J. LOCKIE.....	M. E. Grand High Priest.
" J. DANIELS.....	R. E. Deputy Grand High Priest.
" A. T. LONGLEY.....	R. E. Grand King.
" R. W. HARDY.....	R. E. Grand Scribe.
" N. D. LARNER.....	R. E. Grand Secretary.
" C. SMITH	R. E. Grand Treasurer.
" A. HOLMEAD.....	Rev. and E. Grand Chaplain.
" I. L. JOHNSON.....	E. Grand Captain of Host.

The Grand Chapter was then called to a Resumed Convocation on Monday evening, November 21, at 7 o'clock p. m.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 21, 1870.

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met at 7 o'clock and resumed labor.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp. J. LOCKIE.....	Grand High Priest.
R. E. Comp. J. G. SMITH.....	as Grand King.
" " E. B. MacGROTTY.....	Grand Scribe.
" " N. D. LARNER.....	Grand Secretary.
" " C. SMITH.....	Grand Treasurer.

E. Comp.	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
" "	J. ED. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	G. B. CLARK.....	<i>as Grand M. of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand M. of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	J. E. PORTER.....	<i>Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>
" "	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priests, J. G. Smith, J. E. F. Holmead.

Past Deputy Grand High Priests, W. M. Smith, L. G. Stephens.

Past Grand Kings, A. Glass, C. W. Hancock; and

Representatives and Past High Priests from all the Chapters.

Comp. Mason submitted the following questions, and moved that they be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence for report at the Semi-annual Convocation in May, 1871, which was agreed to:

QUESTION 1. Can a Mark Master Mason who received his degree in a Mark Lodge in Philadelphia visit a Chapter in this jurisdiction while working on the Mark degree?

QUESTION 2. If a Mark Master Mason who received his degree in Philadelphia in a Mark Lodge applies for the remainder of the Chapter degrees in this jurisdiction, can any deduction from the total sum of \$30 be made in his case?

QUESTION 3. Will the same law hold good in relation to Mark Master Masons who received their degrees in Canada, England, Ireland, and Scotland?

QUESTION 4. Can a petition for the Chapter degrees be received from a Master Mason who received all his degrees in a Lodge in the army or navy, if said Lodge had a charter or dispensation emanating from a Grand Lodge or Grand Master we recognize as regular and legal?

On motion of Comp. Coon, the Special Committee appointed on the 14th inst. was instructed to take into consideration the expediency of revising the Past Master's degree.

The M. E. Grand High Priest announced the following appointments:

Comp.	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>E. Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
"	J. E. MASON.....	<i>E. G. Principal Sojourner.</i>
"	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>E. G. R. A. Captain.</i>
"	R. A. FISH.....	<i>E. G. M. of 3d Vail.</i>
"	JAS. E. PORTER.....	<i>E. G. M. of 2d Vail.</i>
"	ALLEN WALL.....	<i>E. G. M. of 1st Vail.</i>
"	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Committee on Examination—

Comp. L. G. STEPHENS,
 " G. D. PATTEN, Jr.,
 " D. B. SEARLE.

Committee on Grievances—

Comp. A. BUCHLY,
 " A. GLASS,
 " H. A. WHALLON.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence—

Comp. J. E. MASON,
 " C. E. COON,
 " C. SMITH.

Committee on Accounts—

Comp. E. B. MACGROTTY,
 " WM. MIDDLETON,
 " C. W. HANCOCK.

Committee on Jurisprudence—

Comp. N. P. CHIPMAN,
 " J. DANIELS,
 " G. B. CLARK.

M.: E.: Companion J. G. Smith, P.: G.: High Priest, then installed M.: E.: Companion John Lockie as Grand High Priest, who subsequently installed the other officers, both elective and appointed, excepting Comp. J. Daniels, D.: G.: High Priest; Comp. A. Holmead, Rev. Grand Chaplain; and Comp. R. A. Fish, Grand Master of the Third Vail, who were absent, and whose installation it was ordered should take place in one of the Subordinate Chapters by a member of the Grand Council.

Previous to the installation of the officers, Comp. Faulkner objected to the installation of Comp. Hardy as Grand Scribe, on the ground that the Companion had never served in the office of High Priest of a Chapter. The question having been discussed, by vote of the Grand Chapter the objection of Comp. Faulkner was overruled, whereupon Comp. Faulkner entered his protest against the decision of the Grand Chapter.

Comp. C. Smith submitted an amendment to Article XI. of the Constitution, striking out so much of the article as makes it the duty of the Grand Visitor and Lecturer to visit each Subordinate Chapter in the jurisdiction at least once in each month, and

insert in lieu thereof "once in every two months," which was laid over until the Semi-annual Convocation in May, 1871.

The Committee on Accounts submitted the following report, which was received and ordered to be printed with the proceedings:

WASHINGTON CITY, *November 14, 1870.*

Your committee, appointed to audit the accounts of the Grand Treasurer for the past Masonic year, beg leave to report that they have examined the books and find them correctly kept.

The financial condition of the Grand Chapter is as follows:

Amount received from all sources.....	\$1,397 50
Amount paid out as per vouchers	811 47
Leaving a balance in hands of Grand Treasurer.....	\$586 03

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. B. MACGRGTTY,
C. W. HANCOCK,
Committee.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

DR. CHAUNCEY SMITH, *Grand Treasurer, in account with the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District* Cr.
of Columbia.

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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1869. Nov. 9. 1870. Nov. 14.	To cash rec'd from Grand Secretary " " " "	1869. Nov. 9 " 9 " 13 Dec. 10 1870. Jan. 18 Feb. 14 " 26 Mar. 12 " 12 Apr. 14	By balance due Grand Treasurer on last Masonic year By cash paid N. D. Larner, Grand Secretary, for salary and postage. " " C. W. Hancock, G. V. & L., for services as Grand Lecturer " " Morsell & Dearing for furnishing Grand Secretary's office " " C. W. Hancock, G. V. & L., for services to May, 1870 " " N. D. Larner, Grand Secretary, for furnishing Grand Secretary's office " " McGill & Witherow for printing annual proceedings " " N. D. Larner, G. S., for postage " " L. Stoddard, Jr., for services as Grand Janitor " " N. D. Larner, Grand Secretary, for salary to the 1st May, 1870 Balance on hand	\$19 30 75 76 50 00 100 00 50 00 50 00 359 91 5 00 26 50 75 00 \$811 47 586 03 \$1,397 50
	\$684 00 71 50			
				\$1,397 50

IN FRATERNAL REMEMBRANCE
OF
MOST EXCELLENT
BENJAMIN BROWN FRENCH,

GRAND HIGH PRIEST

Of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia

In 1869 and 1870,

Demitted from Temporal to Eternal August 12, 1870,

In the 70th Year of his Age,

This Memorial Page is Inscribed.

Beloved COMPANION! deeply did we mourn—
Bereaved indeed—when from us thou wast torn,
Forgetful of thy sure eternal gain:
Reflecting thus, from sorrow we'll refrain.
Exalted to the Chapter Grand Supreme,
No less dost thou within our presence seem.
Completed here thy work, to joys ABOVE
Hence wast thou called, to wages earned in love!
W. H. BROWN.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be permitted, under the Charters to be issued to them, to confer the Council degrees therein, and that said degrees shall not, in any manner, be connected with the Chapters.—*May 24, 1867.*

Resolved, That hereafter a petition for a charter for a new Chapter shall not be considered by the Grand Chapter until the Grand Secretary shall be satisfied that the petitioners for the charter have paid all indebtedness to the Chapters to which they belong.—*May 31, 1869.*

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter disapproves the use of substitutes in conferring any of the degrees of Capitular Masonry, and hereby prohibits its practice in this jurisdiction.—*November 8, 1869.*

Resolved, That the Subordinate Chapters of this jurisdiction shall hereafter require all applicants for the Capitular degrees to state on their applications whether they have or have not made a like application to any other Chapter for the degrees, and also to state their occupation and place of residence.—*November 8, 1869.*

Resolved, That when a Brother has been elected to receive the degrees in a Chapter, and an objection is entered to his receiving them by a member of the Chapter in good standing, the degrees shall not be conferred upon the Brother so long as the objection shall remain, but should the Companion who made the objection cease to be a member of the Chapter from any cause, the objection shall fall and the Brother be entitled to have the degrees conferred upon him, unless the objection shall be renewed by a member in good standing in the Chapter.—*November 14, 1870.*

RETURNS OF CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS,

WORKING UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

At the Annual Convocation in November, 1870, with the Names of their Officers for the Year
Ending November, 1871.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER, No. 1.

Meets on the first and third Wednesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

GEORGE D. PATTEN, Jr., M. E. H. Priest. J. H. JOCHUM, E. Scribe.
H. S. MERRILL, E. King. L. G. STEPHENS, Secretary.
HENRY O. NOYES, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

L. G. Stephens, P. H. Priest and P. D. G. H. Priest.
John Lockie, P. H. Priest and M. E. G. H. Priest.
Joseph T. Brown, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Acker, Nicholas	Bell, Jas. E.	Copp, H. N.
Allbright, Fred'k	Bright, Geo. A.	Calvert, F. G.
Abbott, Geo. A.	Boteler, Jno. W.	Crossfield, G. R.
Beck, Wm.	Baker, Jno. C.	Cavanagh, Thos.
Bishop, D. J.	Casey, C. C.	Dillon, M. A.
Bowen, C. H.	Champion, Robt.	Donaldson, R. B.
Brown, Jos. T.	Choate, W. E.	Demelman, D. L.
Brown, E. R.	Choate, Warren	Dummer, Geo. E.
Brown, Benj. W.	Coffran, J. W.	Dengel, Jno. P.
Bryan, Wm.	Cohen, Mark	Edwards, Edw'd
Breece, H. C.	Cowie, Geo.	Essex, Josiah
Branson, P. H.	Creaser, Thos.	Enderlee, Jos. L.
Burr, H. C.	Crosby, W. H.	Fagan, J. C.
Bliss, D. W.	Cruit, Henry	Ford, C. M.
Beatty, J. H.	Clark, Thos. E.	Froiseth, B. A. N.

Fechtig, W. C.	Knapp, D. E.	Plant, Geo. H., Jr.
Foster, Thos.	Leisnitzer, E. J.	Proctor, J. C.
Ferguson, R. B.	Lockie, John	Riley, Jos. S.
Garfield, Jas. A.	Lord, Jno. B.	Russell, Jno. H.
Gawler, A. H.	Lower, W. W.	Root, B. C.
Gibbons, Chas. H.	Maguire, T. F.	Ryneal, Geo., Jr.
Gibson, Geo.	Macarty, D. J.	Reed, Wm. B.
Griffith, C. T.	Magee, J. S.	Russell, Thos.
Gleason, Jas.	McGuire, J. C.	Rich, Jacob
Hall, C. H.	McKendry, W.	Robinson, Jno. K.
Holmead, A.	McKee, Jas. W.	Redway, R. G.
Humphrey, Josiah	McMurray, Robt.	Scheel, Jno. E.
Heilbrun, L.	Merrill, H. S.	Small, Bruce
Hood, H. O.	Milburn, B.	St. Clair, Jas. W.
Herzberg, Chas.	McGlathery, Frank	Stephens, L. G.
Hills, W. H.	Mills, W. H.	Stewart, J. C.
Humer, J. S.	Moore, Silas H.	Stoddard, L.
Hamacher, Jos.	Moulden, Jno. H.	Slater, Isaac C.
Howland, G. W.	Morgan, Henry	Slater, Jno. S.
Hoover, Jno. T.	Moore, W. O.	Strait, N. A.
Henderson, G. A.	Moury, Geo. W.	Schultze, Jno. H.
Hartung, C. E.	McDonald, A.	Tenney, Wm. H.
Ingle, Jno. H.	McLeod, E. M.	Thompson, Thos.
Jewell, Jno. M.	Nelson, C. C.	Tomlinson, J. S.
Johansen, H. P. T.	Niles, S. V.	Topham, Jas. S.
Jochum, J. H.	Neutze, C. T.	Vaux, E. P.
Johnson, Wm. T.	Noyes, R. O.	Werdeman, J. V.
Kennedy, G. W. E.	Owen, Sam'l W.	Wright, G. M.
Kennedy, R. B.	Patten, Geo. D., Jr.	Wilcox, E. B.
Kerr, Jno.	Pierce, J. H.	Witzleben, A. de
Knox, Jno. O.	Purdy, John, Sr.	Wollard, J. F.
Knox, Geo. W.	Purdy, John, Jr.	Wyvill, W. D.
Kondrup, J. C.	Pyser, Jacob	White, Jas. W.
Klotz, C.	Poynton, J. C.	Wirt, W. W.
Kolb, Edward	Parker, M. M.	Ward, Geo. C.

Reinstated.

Maguire, Thos. F.

Withdrawn.

Coleman, S. B.	Edmond, J. D.	Ulam, Jno. H.
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Died.

French, B. B.	Houston, J. H.	Walker, Geo. H.
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Dropped for N. P. D.

Armstrong, G. R.	Crown, Samuel	Meldrum, James
Brown, Chas. O.	Cole, H. V.	Stamp, M. R.
Boswell, R. H.	Curtis, H. B.	Williamson, J. B.
Butt, Samuel	Lobb, David C.	

WASHINGTON CHAPTER, No. 2.

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

G. B. CLARK, M. E. H. Priest.

J. J. CHAPMAN, E. Scribe.

W. H. EARLE, E. King.

A. T. LONGLEY, Secretary.

ROBERT H. GRAHAM, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD, P. H. P. and P. G. H. Priest.

WM. MIDDLETON, P. H. Priest and P. G. Scribe.

J. MOODY SMITH, P. H. Priest.

A. T. LONGLEY, P. H. Priest and Grand King.

J. O. GOODRICH, P. H. Priest.

ROSS. A. FISH, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Abbott, A. W.

Ackerman, M. L.

Allen, S. C.

Ashby, J. R.

Atkins, E. H.

Alexander, C. M.

Baldwin, Edward

Ball, Robert

Barroll, F. H.

Bartholow, J. P.

Bassett, Geo. T.

Baxter, M. C.

Beekman, James

Belger, James

Blackford, W. D.

Blakely, T. M.

Blout, I. L.

Bond, S. V.

Bonell, Edward

Boteler, H. D.

Bowen, E. W.

Browning, J. W.

Burnett, D. L.

Burnham, N.

Budlong, J. N.

Bailey, Thos. L.

Bird, John H.

Bogan, S. W.

Campbell, Richard

Campbell, T. B.

Campbell, W. J.

Carpenter, L. Cass

Chapman, H. N.

Chapman, Rev. W. H.

Childs, A. F.

Clarke, Geo. B.

Clarke, G. H.

Corbin, E. Lyon

Cornelius, Rev. J. W.

Cox, J. L.

Craig, Andrew

Croggon, R. C.

Cropley, W. C.

Crown, S. T.

Cushman, E. L.

Clark, Thos. A.

Chapman, J. J.

Carver, Frank N.

Darr, C. W.

Dawson, J. B.

De Ney, Vasco

Dyre, W. W. S.

Davis, E. G.

Delano, M. F.

Dell, F. C.

Delwig, L. A.

Doughty, J. H.

Downman, R. W.

Earl, Charles

Earle, W. H.

Ellis, H. C.

Elliott, J. J.

Fish, Ros. A.

Frederic, J. D.

Fugitt, N. B.

Fuller, W. H.

Farron, George

Forbes, Darius

Freeman, Benj.

Garrison, J. R.

Gedney, J. F.

Glover, Townsend

Goodrich, J. O.

Graham, R. H.

Graham, W. W.

Green, H. M.	Marks, H. S.	Scudder, Rev. Jos.
Griffin, E. W. W.	Marks, S. A. H.	Sheriff, Geo. L.
Guild, James	McClermont, R.	Sherman, Chas.
Gunn, P. H.	McElwee, James	Skerrett, W. H.
Gardner, Thos. I.	Meloy, S. H.	Slater, S. E.
Goggin, R.	Middleton, Wm.	Smith, C. B.
Gorman, A. P.	Mitchell, M. C.	Smith, J. Moody
Gradwohl, L.	Moore, W. D.	Smith, John M.
Grossmayer, N.	Morgan, Henry	Spencer, Frank A.
Gillman, H. M.	Montgomery, W.	Stephenson, W. J.
Hable, S. L.	McIntosh, D.	Sterling, W. J.
Hable, A.	Montandon, A.	Stock, J. G.
Hayes, C. W.	McElroy, John	Street, J. R.
Higgins, H. A.	Nalley, W. H.	Sullivan, J. J.
Hinds, George	Newton, A. Steve.	Sykes, L.
Hirsch, Moses	Noble, H. B.	Stephenson, A. H.
Holmead, J. E. F.	Norton, Frank A.	Tacey, Jefferson
Hudson, James	Nutt, G. W.	Taylor, A. S.
Hughes, Evan	Niles, Henry C.	Thompson, G. R.
Hamlin, J. P.	Orcutt, W. H.	Thorn, B. T.
Hanson, J. G.	O'Rear, W. A.	Tilley, Stephen
Hartz, W. T.	Olcott, R. G.	Tolson, A.
Hennage, J. H.	Pearl, Marcus	Toomb, Robert
Henning, A.	Petersen, August	Trimble, M.
Hibbs, G. D. C.	Philips, A.	Tyssowski, J.
Howard, A. M.	Piersons, H. C.	Van Campen, S.
Hunt, H. L.	Pocock, Thomas	Varela, A. C.
Hurst, J. H.	Powers, Richard	Voute, C. H.
Hume, T. L.	Pearson, S. P.	Von Fostner, S. F.
Hutton, Jacob D.	Peck, W. H.	Webster, J. R.
James, Clement	Reed, T. M.	Wells, G. Wiley
Johnston, W. H.	Reifsnyder, J. H.	Whitefoot, R. M.
Kaighn, M. M.	Reigart, J. M.	Whyte, Fred.
Kennedy, Thomas	Robertson, J.	Williamson, James
Kramer, L. J.	Rogers, Geo. J.	Winter, S. K.
Leamy, John	Roose, W. S.	Wolfe, A. B.
Leavy, H.	Rowland, J. S. C.	Walker, James T.
Logan, D. J.	Riley, T. R.	Williams, J. Z.
Longley, A. T.	Sears, C. A.	Wright, L. W.
Lynch, James	Sears, P. B.	Young, Geo. D.
Mann, W. D.	Schleimer, D.	Zevely, E. A.

Withdrawn.

Blackie, C.	Huntoon, A. J.	Von Geiglingen, A.
Gibson, Jos. F.	Mason, J. M.	Vanderburgh, J. V. W.

Died.

Bailey, Robert	Buckley, John T.	Cooper, Bishop
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MT. VERNON CHAPTER, No. 3.

Meets on the second and fourth Mondays in each month.

OFFICERS.

JOHN W. GRIFFIN, M. E. H. Priest.
S. BAXTER, E. King.

C. L. PATTEN, E. Scribe.
J. H. PICKELL, Secretary.

NATHAN B. CLARKE, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

Charles W. Hancock, P. H. Priest and P. G. King.
Henry A. Whallon, P. H. Priest and P. G. King.
D. B. Searle, P. H. Priest.
J. Daniels, P. H. P. and D. G. H. Priest.
S. T. Loomis, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Allen, J. C.	Dennison, Charles W.	Heywood, George B.
Allen, E. K.	DeCaindry, Wm. A.	Hoover, J. W.
Alexander, Charles L.	Dole, Stephen A.	Hart, Wm.
Anderson, W. S.	Driggs, George T.	Isham, L. D.
Appel, Charles A.	Doyle, J. A.	Jansen, J. C.
Bates, George A.	Eichler, Wm.	Jaquette, J. G.
Baxter, Samuel	Eldridge, W. W.	Johnson, S. A.
Borrows, S. M.	Farlee, W. A.	Jones, Pierpont E.
Brown, P. B.	Fenton, T. A.	Jones, W. Martin
Brady, Charles B.	Firman, O. S.	King, John J.
Burgdorf, Louis	Fowler, T. T.	Kinney, Alanson T.
Burns, B. F.	Frantz, C. F. L.	Kimball, L. W.
Cameron, John	Fries, Henry	Lacy, Robert S.
Cate, A. B.	Fry, Wm. H.	Larman, John Q.
Castle, D. E.	Francis, George W.	Loomis, S. T.
Catlin, Charles L.	Garwood, S. N.	Marshall, F. M.
Clarke, N. B.	Gawler, Joseph	Metcalfe, F. S.
Clarke, P. M.	Gafney, Charles B.	McCormick, James R.
Clark, E. W., Jr.	Gilbert, B. F.	Morris, Edward L.
Cluss, Adolf	Gilbert, O. H.	Montgomery, R. H.
Comstock, O. W.	Goepel, Paul	Murray, B. P.
Daniels, Joseph	Gray, E. H.	Michener, John E.
Daniels, Frank G.	Griffin, J. W.	Nordstrom, C. E.
Daniels, A. M.	Hancock, C. W.	Page, Charles
Daniels, R. G.	Hay, W. J.	Partridge, George W.
Dawson, Charles	Hesse, J. C.	Patten, C. L.
Davy, James, Jr.	Helmus, Wm.	Patterson, James

Pickell, John H.
 Philp, Franklin
 Pinney, George M.
 Potter, W. W.
 Pratt, George W.
 Randall, A. F.
 Saville, J. H.
 Saunders, L. M.
 Schriftgiesser, P. L.
 Schrieber, Wm.
 Searle, D. B.
 Sherwood, H. L.
 Shepherd, Charles T.

Searle, Henry R.
 Stevens, C. C.
 Sweet, Wm. E.
 Stuyvesant, G. W.
 Sylvester, Jos. H.
 Stiles, Geo. P.
 Perry, Seth A.
 Tichener, J. S.
 Thorne, S. N.
 Thompson, M.
 Trask, W. E.
 Tyler, W. C.

Wallace, R. B.
 Whallon, Henry A.
 Walton, W. H.
 Washburn, H. S.
 Webster, Wm. H.
 White, Henry A.
 Wilson, J. C.
 Wilson, L. A.
 Wood, George H.
 Wyman, C. T.
 Yates, Wm. A.
 Yates, Jas. V.

Reinstated.

Brady, Charles B.
 Catlin, Charles L.
 Dunn, Wm.

Eastman, Norman
 Francis, George W.
 Kellogg, L. H.

Rice, George
 Stewart, Wm. H.
 Shepherd, Charles T.

Withdrawn.

Currier, J. C.
 Cooper, John S.
 Culyer, John S.
 Dunn, Wm.

Eastman, Norman
 Gillis, B. W.
 Kellogg, L. H.
 La Petra, George H.

McGown, George
 Rice, George
 Stewart, Wm. H.
 Young, George T.

Died.

Walsh, Michael H.

Dropped for N. P. D.

Ashdown, W. W.
 Bache, Sharrington
 Crutchley, W. F.
 Evans, F. H.
 Glasscott, W. H.

King, Fred.
 Loweree, George E.
 Littlewood, J. B.
 Machir, Jos. S.
 O'Connor, D. J.

Partello, W. P.
 Partello, D. J.
 Pearson, P. W.
 Walker, Cyrus
 Whittington, George N.

EUREKA CHAPTER, No. 4.

Meets on the second and fourth Fridays in each month.

OFFICERS.

ANTHONY BUCHLY, M.°. E.°. H.°. Priest. WM. MYERS, E.°. Scribe.
CHAS. P. HARMON, E.°. King. S. JOHN THOMSON, Secretary.
WILLIAM H. GOODS, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Grand Officers.

Chauncey Smith, P.°. H.°. Priest and Grand Treasurer.
E. B. MacGrotty, P.°. H.°. Priest and P.°. Grand Scribe.
I. L. Johnson, P.°. H.°. Priest.

Royal Arch Masons.

Abrams, A.	Curtis, W.	Johnson, I. L.
Aldridge, T.	Davis, J. G.	Johnson, A. E. H.
Amiss, T. B.	Davis, J.	Kaufman, L.
Anderson, W. A.	Dearing, G. T.	Kettler, L.
Bacon, A. A.	Draper, N. C.	Keyworth, J.
Barker, W. P.	Draper, A. H.	King, G. S.
Bartlett, J. D.	Ebbinghaus, J. W.	Knotts, J. W.
Been, H.	Faunce, C.	Kromberger, W.
Bell, W. P.	Fay, Ed. L.	Lein, H. B.
Benjamin, C. F.	Fearson, C. D.	Lillebridge, G. H.
Bonitz, H.	Fowler, C. H.	Lloyd, B. F.
Bordman, E. K.	Franzoni, C. W.	Low, J. E.
Bourne, T. C.	Gassenheimer, L.	MacGrotty, E. B.
Bowen, J. G.	Gettinger, B. F.	Martin, J. E.
Boyd, W. H.	Gill, S. F.	McClary, E. S.
Bradley, H. H.	Goods, W. H.	Montgomery, J. H.
Brenizer, J. L.	Gordon, R. A.	Morsell, S. T. G.
Brereton, W. H.	Greer, C. E.	Mueller, G. J.
Bright, J. G.	Hadaway, C.	Munsou, H. T.
Brock, W. G.	Haislip, J. W.	Myers, W. C.
Brown, O. C.	Harmon, C. P.	Mygatt, H. N.
Bruni, C.	Harris, R. L.	Ottman, R. R.
Buchly, A.	Harrison, W. H.	Pearsons, J. P.
Butt, W. B.	Hempstone, S. H.	Pilson, J. H.
Butts, A. B.	Hibbs, E. T.	Pinkney, W.
Campbell, R. G.	Holmes, E. S.	Poindexter, W. M.
Champlin, T. H.	Howard, J. W.	Proctor, T.
Craig, P. S.	Humphreys, R. T.	Reynolds, C. W.
Crosby, H. T.	Hunter, G. M.	Richmond, J. Q.
Crump, J. E.	Johnson, W. H.	Ridenour, U. H.

Rives, J.	Spencer, H. C.	Wheeler, E. G.
Rives, F.	Spengler, Theo.	Whitcomb, A. M.
Schafhirt, F. H.	Stephenson, J. F.	Whittlemore, B. F.
Schley, E. S.	Stone, W. C.	Whittlesey, R. H.
Seip, R. C.	Swany, C. M.	Wilson, P. R.
Short, W. A.	Thomson, S. J.	Wilson, D.
Siegel, M.	Trimble, J. H.	Winnemore, I. J.
Slater, J.	Tudor, W. V.	Yager, J. H.
Smith, C.	Viven, J. L.	Young, W. P.
Smith, F. H.	Wall, J. C.	
Sonnenschmidt, C. W.	West, F. E.	

Withdrawn.

Mitchell, Thomas Vale, J. M.

Expelled.

Knox, John

LAFAYETTE CHAPTER, No. 5.

Meets on the first and third Saturdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

DANIEL S. JONES, M.°. E.°. H.°. Priest. EDWARD H. FULLER, E.°. Scribe.
CHARLES E. COON, E.°. King. JOHN EDWIN MASON, Secretary.
N. P. CHIPMAN, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

N. P. CHIPMAN, P.°. H.°. Priest.
NOBLE D. LARNER, P.°. H.°. Priest and Grand Secretary.

Royal Arch Masons.

Adams, J. Lee, M. D.	Bentley, Alex. J.	Burnham, D. S.
Arnold, Walter J.	Betz, Louis	Burt, Ellery J.
Baar, Lewis	Blue, David S.	Chandler, Malcolm T.
Baker, Henry M.	Bishop, Henry H.	Chase, Chas. W.
Balloch, Geo. W.	Booraem, Edgar I.	Cheney, J. Edwin, M. D.
Barnes, James J.	Boyden, George	Chipman, Norton P.
Barr, Henry D.	Brewster, Henry A.	Clements, John T.
Barr, Thomas F.	Bridges, Edwin T.	Coon, Chas. Edw.
Barry, Wm. M.	Bridgman, Geo. W.	Colledge, Chas. B. R.
Bates, Stephen	Brown, Andrew R., M. D.	Cramer, Joseph B.
Bean, Henry D.	Brown, Wm. Henry	Creecy, C. Eaton
Bender, Joseph T.	Bunker, Geo. W.	Dickinson, Geo. T.

Dixon, John H.	McConnell, Jas. C., M. D.	Stailey, John H.
Duncan, Sam'l A.	McCoy, Joseph S.	Stanton, Irving W.
Duren, John A.	McKeever, Samuel	Steele, Thos. J.
Eaton, Walter S.	McLean, Harry C.	Stewart, John A.
Fisk, Eugene A.	Moore, Wm. G.	Stiles, Val. N.
Fitch, Geo. A., M. D.	Morgan, Francis H.	Stratton, John T.
Fitzki, Edward	Moulton, Chas. H.	Strachan, Sam'l S.
French, Benj. F.	Minnick, Wm. Henry	Stockbridge, Virgil B.
Fuller, Edw. H.	Owen, Fred. W., M. D.	Stoek, Jacob F.
Gage, Norris L.	Patterson, DeWitt C., M. D.	Sickles, William
Gambbs, Geo.	Patterson, J. Scott, M. D.	Thomasson, Sam'l E.
Glenn, John W.	Parks, Calvin M.	Thompson, John B.
Gillham, Rob't	Parks, Rev. James H.	Tileston, Wm. M.
Gilmore, Chas. D.	Perley, James P.	Towles, Henry O
Greer, John R.	Perkins, Edw. A.	Transue, Absalom, M. D.
Griffith, Fleming R.	Philipp, Moritz B.	Tompkins, Robt. B.
Grinnell, James S.	Pierce, Dan'l T.	Upton, J. Kendrick
Gordon, Chas. G.	Powers, Wm. G.	Vandenburg, J. V. W.
Hale, Edw. W.	Ray, Herbert H.	VanDerlip, Wm. L.
Harrison, Luther	Rider, Wm. L., M. D.	Wannall, Chas. P.
Hart, Amos W.	Robertson, Sam'l P.	Warren, Chas., M. D.
Heller, Simon	Rosegrant, Chas. B.	Waugh, James E.
Howard, Geo. M., M. D.	Sargent, Hosea Q.	Weirick, Jesse H.
Howell, Myron E. N.	Schutter, Hubert	Welcker, Peter D.
Irwin, Walter R.	Sharman, Rev. Wm.	Wheeler, Henry W.
Jones, Daniel S.	Shaw, Josiah	Whitney, Wm. H.
Kant, C. Edw.	Shepherd, Thos. M.	Wilkins, Chas. A.
Knox, John J.	Simms, John W.	Will, Henry
Larner, Noble D.	Singleton, Wm. B.	Will, Joseph B.
Libbey, Israel P.	Sinsabaugh, David	Witherow, James M.
Linville, Geo. W.	Small, William	Wolf, Simon
Martin, Luther	Smith, Andrew C.	Woodbury, Levi
Mason, John Edw., M. D.	Smith, J. Dempster	Wright, William
Mason, James M.	Sniffen, Culver C.	
Madge, Oscar D.	Spear, Chas. W.	

Withdrawn.

Heald, Issachar A.

Died.

Howe, Edward S.

WASHINGTON NAVAL CHAPTER, No. 6.

Meets on the first and third Tuesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

ANDREW GLASS, M. E. H. Priest. ANDREW WOODS, E. Scribe.
 JAMES E. PORTER, E. King. GEORGE W. WELLS, Secretary.
 THOMAS SOMMERVILLE, Treasurer.

Past High Priest and Past Grand Officer.

Andrew Glass, P. H. Priest and P. Grand King.

Royal Arch Masons.

Anderson, R.	Glass, Andrew	Porter, Jas. E.
Bailey, Wm. H.	Goddard, W. W.	Skidmore, G. W.
Brown, John	Goodall, Geo. W.	Steele, John M.
Browning, H.	Graham, J.	Sommerville, Thos.
Cooper, Wm. A.	Hancock, A.	Stewart, Thos.
Cowan, W. L.	Hoeke, W.	St. John, W. H. H.
Cross, jr., T. B.	Hogan, J. C.	Thompson, Thos.
Chase, I. McK.	Holroyd, John	Vermillion, Jas.
Downs, John A.	Lomax, Jas. C.	Walter, Win.
Farrish, W. F.	McFarlane, A.	Weber, L. F. W.
Foos, John A.	McKim, S. A. H.	Wells, Jos. M.
Foster, Rob't F.	Marton, D. W.	Wells, Geo. W.
Gaddis, Wm.	Nachman, D.	Wilkinson, Wm.
Gaddis, Geo. H.	O'Connor, R.	Williams, E.
Gaddis, Adam	Patton, D. H.	Woods, Andrew

Withdrawn.

Wheeler, Charles S.

POTOMAC CHAPTER, No. 8, (GEORGETOWN, D. C.)

Meeting at Masonic Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

OFFICERS.

W. MORRIS SMITH, M. E. H. Priest. ALLEN WALL, E. Scribe.
 R. W. HARDY, E. King. WILLIAM W. WHEELER, Secretary.
 R. L. CROPLEY, Treasurer.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

James Goszler, P. G. H. P. and P. H. P.

James King, P.: H.: P.: and P.: D.: G.: H.: P.:
 James G. Smith, P.: H.: P.: and P.: G.: H.: P.:
 W. Morris Smith, P.: H.: P.: and P.: D.: G.: H.: P.:
 W. H. Faulkner, P.: H.: P.:

Royal Arch Masons.

Alvord, H. J.	Hood, J. H.	Robinson, J. D.
Beall, John J.	Hedrick, B. S.	Rhor, H.
Ball, J. H.	Helen, Jos.	Rodgers, John E.
Blundon, J. A.	Johnson, J. C.	Shekell, R. R.
Choppin, W.	Jones, A. J.	Shekell, A. B.
Cropley, R. L.	Jones, F. W.	Shekell, C. F.
Campbell, R. T.	King, G. W.	Strauss, H.
Cox, Jas. P.	King, James	Shinn, R. A.
Davidson, J. B.	Kaiser, John	Sothoron, G. M.
Dowling, T.	Laird, W., jr.	Stackpole, T.
Dodge, A. H.	Lawrence, J. V.	Stork, F. W.
Dickson, H.	Lawrence, D. C.	Sweeney, H. M.
Denty, J. W.	Libbey, Joseph	Seligson, H.
Edmonston, R. A.	Lambright, G. W.	Smith, W. M.
Faulkner, W. H.	Lumsdon, J. W.	Smith, J. G.
Frey, R. E.	Ludgate, Wm.	Taylor, W. H. G.
Goszler, James	Owens, John L.	Turton, John B.
Grimes, B. F.	Parker, J. C.	Waters, Geo.
Graves, John B.	Phillips, J. H.	Wheeler, W. W.
Gross, H. A.	Prather, A. C.	Wheatley, W. T.
Hartley, E. D.	Pickrell, A. H.	Wall, Allen
Hardy, R. W.	Rhinehart, G.	Magruder, Dr. H.

Withdrawn.

Houghton, A. O.

Shekell, E. A.

Died.

Berry, John S.

Patterson, Edgar

Dropped for N. P. D.

Beall, G. W.	Goszler, J. Mason	Roache, Alex.
Cruickshanks, John	Heiston, J. C.	Rhorer, W. H.
Bootes, Sam'l	Hoffman, W.	Schloss, J. A.
Birch, W. H.	Moore, John	Shuman, D.
Edmonston, C. T.	Noyes, H. C.	
English, C. S.	Primrose, S. F.	

STATEMENT,

Showing the numerical condition of the several Chapters in the jurisdiction, with the work of the past year and amounts due and paid by each to the Grand Chapter for 1870.

Name and No. of Chapter.	No. of members per last return.	Add.			Deduct.					Present No. of members.	Rejected.	Amount paid by the several Chapters to the Grand Chapter.
		Expired since.	Affiliated.	Reinstated.	Total during year.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Dropped.	Suspended.	Expelled.		
Columbia..... No. 1	153	12	.....	1	166	3	3	11	.....	.....	.....	\$111 50
Washington..... No. 2	195	12	1	.....	208	6	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	128 50
Mt. Vernon..... No. 3	118	16	3	9	146	12	1	15	.....	1	.....	95 50
Eureka..... No. 4	93	30	1	.....	124	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	141 50
La Fayette..... No. 5	102	32	7	.....	141	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	146 00
Washington Naval..... No. 6	40	6	.....	.....	46	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37 50
Potomac..... No. 8	77	8	1	.....	86	2	2	16	.....	.....	.....	53 00
	778	116	13	10	917	27	10	42		2	5	\$713 50

LIST OF GRAND CHAPTERS *in correspondence with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, with the name and address of their Grand Secretaries.*

GRAND CHAPTER OF—	GRAND SECRETARIES.	ADDRESS.
Alabama.....	Daniel Sayre	Montgomery.
Arkansas	L. E. Barber.....	Little Rock.
California	L. C. Owen.....	San Francisco.
Canada.....	T. Bird Harris	Hamilton.
Connecticut.....	J. H. Wheeler.....	Hartford.
Delaware	W. F. Godwin.....	Milford.
Florida	Ed. Bradford, Jr.....	Jacksonville.
Georgia	J. E. Blackshear	Macon.
Illinois.....	J. H. Miles	Chicago.
Indiana,	J. M. Bramwell.....	Indianapolis.
Iowa	W. B. Langridge.....	Muscatine.
Kansas	E. T. Carr.....	Leavenworth.
Kentucky.....	Philip Swigert.....	Frankfort.
Louisiana.....	J. C. Batchelor.....	New Orleans.
Maine.....	Ira Berry.....	Portland.
Maryland.....	W. A. Wentz.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts	Thos. Waterman.....	Boston.
Michigan	J. Eastman Johnson.....	Centreville.
Minnesota	W. S. Combs	St. Paul.
Mississippi.....	J. L. Power.....	Jackson.
Missouri	G. F. Gouley.....	St. Louis.
Nebraska	R. W. Furnas.....	Brownville.
New Hampshire.....	Abel Hutchins	Concord.
New Jersey.....	J. Woolverton, M. D.....	Trenton.
New York	C. G. Fox	Buffalo.
North Carolina	T. B. Carr.....	Wilmington.
Nova Scotia	Jas. Gossip.....	Halifax.
Ohio	J. D. Caldwell.....	Cincinnati.
Oregon	R. P. Earhart.....	Salem.
Pennsylvania.....	Jno. Thomson.....	Philadelphia.
Rhode Island.....	Geo. H. Burnham.....	Providence.
Scotland.....	L. Mackersy.....	Edinburgh.
South Carolina	A. T. Smythe.....	Charleston.
Tennessee.....	J. Frizzell.....	Nashville.
Texas	R. Brewster.....	Houston.
Vermont	W. H. S. Whitcomb.....	Burlington.
Virginia	Dr. John Dove.....	Richmond.
Wisconsin	Wm. T. Palmer.....	Milwaukee.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand R. A. Chapter

OF

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

For the year 1871.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.



WASHINGTON :
REPUBLICAN JOB OFFICE PRINT.
1871.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND R.: A.: CHAPTER

OF

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

For the year 1871.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON:
REPUBLICAN JOB OFFICE PRINT,
1871.

PROCEEDINGS.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, January 30, 1871.

A Special Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at the Masonic Temple at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

PRESENT:

M. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
" "	R. W. HARDY.	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" "	C. SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
" "	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
E. "	I. L. JOHNSON.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	J. ED. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	D. S. JONES..... as	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	G. B. CLARK..... as	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	ALLEN WALL.....	<i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
" "	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Deputy Grand High Priest, L. G Stephens.

Past Grand King, C. W. Hancock.

Past Grand Scribe, E. B. MacGrotty.

Representatives from all of the Chapters, and Past High Priests from all of the Chapters except Nos. 6 and 8.

The Grand Chapter having been opened in ample form, the M. E. Grand High Priest stated that he had called the Grand Chapter for the purpose of receiving a report from the Committee appointed at a previous Convocation to revise the work of the several degrees, and to transact such other business as might be presented.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand Chapter a communication from the Grand Secretary of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, acknowledging the receipt of commission for Comp. Hay, recently appointed Grand Representative of this Grand Chapter near the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland.

On motion a committee, consisting of Companions Larner, C. Smith and Griffin, was appointed to procure and forward to

Comp. Hay the proper jewel and clothing of Representative—that of Grand Scribe.

Comp. Hancock, Grand Visitor and Lecturer, on behalf of the committee appointed at a previous Convocation to revise the several degrees of the Chapter and report such changes as might be deemed proper, submitted a report, recommending various changes in the several degrees. The Grand Chapter, after discussion of the report, adopted some of the changes recommended and rejected the others. Changes other than those recommended by the committee were adopted, and the Grand Visitor and Lecturer directed to communicate the changes made to the various Chapters.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9, 1871.

The Semi-annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at the Masonic Temple at 7 o'clock P. M.

PRESENT:

M. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	J. DANIELS.....	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
" "	R. W. HARDY.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" "	C. SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E. "	I. L. JOHNSON.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	A. HOLMEAD.....	<i>Rev. Grand Chaplain.</i>
" "	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Vis. and Lecturer.</i>
" "	J. E. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	R. A. FISH.....	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	W. H. EARLE..... as	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	ALLEN WALL.....	<i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
Comp.	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priest, J. E. F. Holmead.

Past Deputy Grand High Priest, L. G. Stephens.

Past Grand Scribes, W. Middleton, E. B. MacGrotty.

Representatives and Past High Priests—

From No. 1. H. S. Merrill, King ; J. H. Jochum, Scribe ; Past High Priests, J. Lockie, L. G. Stephens.

From No. 2. G. B. Clark, H. P. ; W. H. Earle, King ; J. J. Chapman, Scribe. Past High Priests, A. T. Longley. W. Middleton, R. A. Fish.

From No. 3. J. W. Griffin, High Priest ; S. Baxter, King ; Past High Priests, J. Daniels, S. T. Loomis, C. W. Hancock.

From No. 4. A. Buchly, High Priest ; Past High Priests, C. Smith, E. B. MacGrotty.

From No. 5. Past High Priest, N. D. Larner.

From No. 8. R. W. Hardy, King ; A. Wall, Scribe.

The Grand Chapter having been opened in ample form the minutes of the last Convocation were read and approved.

Comp. Daniels, on behalf of the Committee on Jurisprudence, asked for further time to report upon matters that had been referred to the committee, which was granted.

The amendment to Article XI of the Constitution, submitted by Comp. C. Smith at the annual meeting of 1870, was adopted.

Comp. Mason, on behalf of the committee appointed to compile the writings of our late M. E. Grand High Priest, Comp. B. B. French, reported that the work had been completed and was now ready for publication, and asked for instructions as to the proper course to pursue in publishing the same ; when, on motion of Comp. Grand Secretary, the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the committee be requested to ascertain the cost of printing the work, and then to direct a circular to the Grand and Subordinate Chapters in the United States, informing them that it is the intention of this Grand Chapter to publish the Masonic and other writings of Comp. B. B. French, and to request them to collect subscriptions for the same at such price as the committee may determine, the subscription to be paid when the work is issued.

Comp. Hancock offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That every Chapter in this jurisdiction is prohibited from publishing in any public newspaper the work to be done at any stated or special Convocation, and any Companion who shall cause the publication of the same shall be subjected to Masonic discipline.

On motion of Comp. Hardy the same privileges in regard to the use of the robes were granted to Potomac Chapter No. 8 as were granted to Naval Chapter No. 6.

On motion the sum of \$25 was appropriated to pay Comp.

MacGrotty for engrossing and framing the resolutions adopted in relation to our late M. E. Grand High Priest, B. B. French.

The M. E. Grand High Priest installed E. and Rev. Companion A. Holmead as Grand Chaplain, and E. Companion R. A. Fish as Grand Master of the 3d Vail.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER.

Grand Secretary.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 14, 1871.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia, was held at Masonic Temple, on Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 1871, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

PRESENT:

M. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	J. DANIELS.....	<i>D. Grand High Priest.</i>
" "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
" "	R. W. HARDY.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	E. B. MacGROTTY..... as	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" "	C. SMITH.....	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
E. "	L. G. STEPHENS..... as	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	J. E. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	J. W. GRIFFIN.....	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	H. S. MERRILL..... as	<i>Grand M. of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	J. E. PORTER.....	<i>Grand M. of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	A. GLASS..... as	<i>Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>

P. G. H. Priests Albert Pike, of Arkansas ; A. G. Mackey, of South Carolina ; J. Q. A. Fellows, of Louisiana ; and J. G. Smith, of District of Columbia.

P. G. Kings Glass, Hancock and Daniels.

P. G. Scribes Middleton, MacGrotty and Faulkner, and Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, and the minutes of the Semi-annual Convocation read and approved.

The Grand High Priest then delivered the following address, which was referred to Companions C. Smith, A. T. Longley and C. W. Hancock :

COMPANIONS : With much pleasure do I rise in the Grand East to welcome you to this our Annual Convocation, and to extend to one and all the

fraternal greeting of a Royal Arch Mason. But while with grateful hearts we render thanks to our Supreme Grand High Priest for the many blessings and mercies which we have received at his hands during the year that has just closed, let us also remember that the grim monster Death has leveled his fatal shaft at one of the members of this Grand Chapter, in the person of our beloved Companion, S. T. Loomis, Past High Priest, and a member of Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 3, which sad event took place on the 3d of September last, at his late residence in this city. Companion Loomis was much respected in this jurisdiction; in a word, we looked upon him as one of Nature's noblemen; and although his name has been stricken from the roll of human existence, we trust his enfranchised spirit has soared to mansions of light and life eternal; and may each Companion, with the poet, exclaim:

Lord of all below, above,
Fill our souls with truth and love
As dissolves our earthly tie,
Take us to thy Lodge on high.

I would, therefore, recommend that this Grand Chapter take suitable action in respect to the memory of Comp. Loomis.

I am happy to report the past year as one of uninterrupted harmony and prosperity throughout this jurisdiction, and although much work has been done in the several Chapters, so far as I am able to judge, it has been good work, true work, and square work, just such work as this Grand Chapter may be proud to approve.

During the year I have exercised but seldom the peculiar prerogatives vested in a Grand High Priest. I have, however, occasionally granted a dispensation to pass the ballot on the same night that a petition has been received, after being fully satisfied that no injustice would be done thereby.

But in no instance have I authorized the ballot to be passed either at a called off or a special Convocation, as I know of no circumstances that would justify the balloting for the several degrees at any other than a regular Convocation of some R. A. Chapter.

Your representatives attended the 21st Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, which assembled in Baltimore on the 19th of September last, and would respectfully report such of their proceedings as we think interest us as a jurisdiction. Twenty-eight Grand Chapters were represented. The first business of importance was an amendment to the Constitution, laid over from the session of 1868, investing all Past Grand High Priests with a vote in the G. G. C. This amendment was passed by a very large majority.

The next question of importance was on an amendment to the Constitution, to strike out the Past Master's Degree from the caputular series as practiced in the several States, generally; but after a long and very interesting discussion it was decided in the negative by 102 yeas to 14 yeas.

The next question of general interest was action respecting the use of substitutes. This question was decided in a manner characteristic of that G. G. Body in the past, namely, to accommodate all parties. The

therefore passed the proposition allowing their use, but recommending their prohibition, (as they said, in all cases possible.)

The next business of general interest was a resolution to bring about a greater uniformity in a portion of the esoteric work of the R. A. A. Degree; when, after a very learned and exhaustive argument, presenting the combined erudition of the twenty-eight Grand Chapters assembled in that 21st Convocation of that august body, the conclusion of the whole matter was precisely the same as practiced in this jurisdiction.

The next feature of interest was, a resolution requesting of each Grand Chapter three cents from each Royal Arch Mason in its jurisdiction, to be sent as a donation to the General Grand Chapter to enable it to publish its proceedings.

I would therefore recommend a favorable consideration of this petition for charity, as I think it is a rare opportunity of returning good for evil.

There is one subject that I would call your attention to, viz : That of the new rank, to us in this jurisdiction, of life membership in Royal Arch Chapters, and I hope you will give it that consideration that its importance demands at your hands.

I know of but two ways of acquiring full membership in a Masonic body, viz: the first, by petition, ballot and initiation; the second, by petition and affiliation. If any other mode of acquiring full membership in a Masonic body (according to the usages of Masonry) is known, I confess my ignorance of its existence, and would gladly be enlightened upon that point.

Companions : I have endeavored to discharge the duties of Grand High Priest to the best of my ability, with justice to all and partiality to none; and as I am now about to return to you the emblems of distinction and authority with which you invested me one year ago, and to take my position upon the floor of this Grand Chapter as a high private, permit me here to return my thanks for the great honor you have conferred upon me, and for the uniform respect and kindness shown me by every officer, both Grand and subordinate, in this entire jurisdiction, and I can with propriety also include every individual Companion so far as my observation has extended; and the earnest prayer of my heart is, "That the Great I AM may shower Heaven's choicest blessings upon all R. A. M. in general, (but those of this jurisdiction in particular,) until there shall not be room to receive them." Finally, my Companions, let each one of us endeavor to discharge our duties in the Quarries, in the Orient, or at the dedication of the Temple; and in the noble and glorious work as weary sojourners, may we execute those sublime plans which have been devised in wisdom, established in strength, and perfected in beauty; for by so doing we shall secure the approbation and blessing of the God of our fathers here; and when the Recording Angel shall open the great book, may we be the happy recipients of that pass which will secure to us an abundant entrance within the pearly gates of the Holy of Holies above, there to hear the thrilling announcement reverberating around the jasper walls, crossing the

golden streets, bounding through the rustling leaves of the Tree of Life, and dying away before the Great White Throne, fair in the south, clear in the west, and bright in the east. So mote it be.

Companions : I have appointed Most Excellent Companion Henry Robertson representative of this Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of Canada, Province of Ontario.

Companion Mason, on behalf of the Committee on Publishing the writings of the late M. E. Past Grand High Priest, B. B. French, submitted bids for the same, and reported progress.

The Grand Visitor and Lecturer submitted the following report ; which was received, and after slight amendment adopted, as follows :

*To the M. E. G. H. P., K., S., and Companions of the
Grand R. A. C. of the District of Columbia :*

COMPANIONS : In my report to the Grand Chapter I have nothing of special importance to communicate. The Chapters are all working in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Ritual of this Grand Chapter. I have visited each and given the necessary instructions to officers and members.

The committee to which was referred the recommendation of the Grand Visitor and Lecturer, met and unanimously adopted the same, and in accordance therewith, I gave notice that the regular meetings for instruction would be held on the fourth Saturday evening in each month. Although the attendance has not been as large as desired, yet I think they have resulted in our mutual benefit.

I presume the *****, as recommended by the General Grand R. A. C., will be adopted by this Grand Chapter, as I have no doubt it will be by every other Grand Chapter in the United States, and thus preserve a uniformity. During the past year I have conversed with a number of Companions from other jurisdictions, and they concur in the opinion that scarcely three Grand Bodies use the same ****.

I have been requested to bring the subject of ***** before the Grand Chapter. There seems to be considerable objection to using them. I would therefore recommend that their use be left optional with the M. E. H. P. of each Chapter.

In conclusion, I feel confident that the work done, material used, and harmony which has existed during the past year, will be a source of satisfaction to every officer and member of this Grand Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. HANCOCK, *G. V. and L.*

Companion J. E. Mason, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted the following report, which was received and ordered to be printed with the proceedings :

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE FOR 1871.

To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia :

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence respectfully submit the following report :

The proceedings of thirty-seven Grand Chapters have been received the past year, and carefully read and reviewed.

They contain over 4,500 pages of reading, which have been thoroughly examined by your committee, and only such selections made as seemed to contain unusually interesting and valuable information.

This course has been pursued in order to make very brief the report for the present year. Much information of great value has been thrown over among the rubbish, which may prove to be like the stone the builders rejected.

Proceedings have been received from the following Grand Chapters :

Alabama.....	Dec. 1870	Missouri	Oct. 1870
Arkansas.....	Nov. 1870	Maryland	Nov. 1870
California.....	April 1871	Mississippi.....	Jan. 1871
Canada	Aug. 1871	Nebraska.....	June 1870
Connecticut.....	May 1871	New Hampshire.....	May 1871
Delaware	Jan. 1871	New Jersey.....	Sept. 1871
England.....	'68 '69 and '70	New York.....	Feb. 1871
Florida	Jan. 1871	North Carolina.....	'70 and '71
Georgia.....	April 1871	Ohio	Sept. 1871
Illinois.....	Oct. 1870	Oregon	June 1871
Indiana.....	Oct. 1870	Pennsylvania	1870
Iowa.....	Oct. 1870	Rhode Island.....	March '71
Kansas.....	Oct. 1870	Scotland.....	March '71
Kentucky.....	Oct. 1871	South Carolina.....	Feb. 1871
Louisiana.....	Feb. 1871	Tennessee	Nov. 1870
Maine.....	May 1871	Vermont.....	June 1871
Massachusetts.....	Dec. 1870	Virginia.....	Dec. 1870
Minnesota.....	Jan. 1871	Wisconsin.....	Jan. 1871
Michigan	Jan. 1871		

No proceedings have been received from Nova Scotia and Texas.

Through the kindness of M. E. Comp. Henry Robertson, your committee are able to lay before the Companions in this jurisdiction in reply to a letter from the Chairman, a very interesting sketch of Capitular Masonry in Canada.

M. E. Companion William James Hughan has again favored this Grand Chapter with much valuable information about English Masonry, which will be found under the review of England. His sketch of Masonry in Europe, printed in our report for 1870, has been widely copied and commended.

These Companions will please accept our heartfelt thanks for these contributions ; not only ours, in the District of Columbia, but all over the United States, where they will be read with interest.

ALABAMA.

The Forty-fourth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter assembled at Montgomery, December 6, 1870, fifty-two of her ninety-three Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Armstrong delivered an interesting address, filled with much matter of local interest, and several decisions on Masonic law and usages. He says :

"It affords me much pleasure to state, that as far as my observation has extended, Capitular Masonry, in this jurisdiction, is in a flourishing condition. Peace, prosperity and harmony prevail, and the lights are burning brightly upon our altars."

We are delighted to know that Capitular Masonry is fast recovering from the effects of the war in the Gulf States, and our companions in Alabama have our warmest congratulations over this fact, and tenderest sympathies. We wish them success and prosperity.

Grand High Priest Armstrong truly says :

"Not in numbers, but in the high, intellectual and moral worth of its membership, does the strength of our Order consist. It is to be feared that we sometimes forget this truth, and, in such forgetfulness, fail to use the black ball, when our true interests as a fraternity require such use. Who can estimate the injury to an institution such as ours, by the admission of one unworthy member? Then, let us with jealous care guard our portals, demanding that all who would pass shall first trace clearly their genealogy, and establish their merits. Thus will we preserve in strength the bonds which should bind together the hearts of Masons, and they will indeed be 'a three fold cord not easily broken.'"

The Committee on Chapters and Charters prohibited Chapters returning any but *Royal Arch dates* in their returns, and properly sent back such returns for correction.

This is right, and the custom everywhere, and is especially commended to the attention of Secretaries in the District of Columbia.

No official communication can be sent under seal from a Chapter except under the *Royal Arch date, Anno Inventionis*.

The same committee, under orders of the Grand Chapter, also prohibited any Chapter from using initials or abbreviations in *names of members*, and ordered each Chapter to return the *full name* of each member of their Chapter, and failing to do this, their returns were sent back for correction. Will the John Smiths who want to be known as J. Smith in Washington please take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans, of Mobile, presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, embracing the review of thirty-four Grand Chapters, including that of the District of Columbia, which receives an extended and fraternal notice. Few writers are more kind and Masonic than Comp. Pillans in his reports.

In complimenting us on our fraternal review of Alabama, he says :

"We feel gratified at these expressions of regard, not for ourselves individually, but because we think the time not far distant when we who live in the lower latitudes will be fully understood, and credited with acting upon convictions honestly and without hope of gain."

We think we understand our Companions in Alabama, and we mean to place ourselves by their side and stand by them as they have by us, during our late Grand Chapter troubles. Our hearts and our hands are ever

open, and are ready to co-operate with such true Masons as those in Alabama.

Comp. Pillans, in reviewing Arkansas, takes the same view as that entertained by that Grand Chapter, that no Mason can be suspended for non-payment of dues, and holds that such suspension is unmasonic and illegal, except after a regular and fair trial. A decree from the Grand Chapter of Alabama makes this obligatory in that jurisdiction.

In reviewing Iowa he agrees with Companion Langridge, as follows :

"He very ably and boldly endorses the doctrine of California, that an officer of any grade in the Chapter can resign, and we think justly characterizes the contrary doctrine as having no foundation in 'common sense.' The doctrine that neither of the Grand Council can withdraw, or that the position once filled must still be filled until the next period for an election, notwithstanding the incumbent will not attend or cannot, because of a thousand or so miles intervening, does indeed smack of what he has thought proper to name it."

Alabama is not a constituent of the General Grand Chapter, and at its late Triennial, in Baltimore, was not represented. Comp. Pillans, no doubt, represents the feeling of that State when he says he wants to hear no more about the General Grand Chapter. He says of this same General Grand body, that they have "had enough, and we think that more harmony would prevail and better feelings result, if it were left to slumber, at least for the present. Perhaps a time may come when we shall be approached, not as menials, but equals; when the General Grand family shall be harmonious, and then we may desire to form a part of it. But while there is so much discord and strife—while the contest for the enlargement or restriction of its powers continues, we think it better to remain 'in the cold,' though by this course we do fail to enjoy the pleasant bacchanalian reunions of that most potent, grave, and reverend body."

The contest for "the enlargement or restriction of its powers" has ended, and we think forever. It was not even named at its recent "Triennial levee," in Baltimore, having been so often defeated by such decisive votes. When any attempt is made to enlarge the powers of the General Grand Chapter, that moment it will cease to exist. About one-half of its constituents are only waiting for such an attempt to be made, in order to secede and place themselves alongside of Alabama.

Such a movement is not considered healthy by those who uphold this "manufactory of high-sounding titles."

ARKANSAS.

The Twenty-first Annual Convocation was held at Little Rock, November 17, 1870, with a representation of twenty-six Chapters.

In the same pamphlet are the proceedings of the Grand Council of Select and Royal Masters, held November 19th, with a representation of twenty-four subordinate Councils in Arkansas.

The reports to the Grand Chapter and Grand Council show that Capi-

tular and Cryptic Masonry are both flourishing in Arkansas, and both present satisfactory reports.

Grand High Priest E. H. English delivered a fine address, which covers eleven printed pages in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

He is the Deputy General Grand High Priest of the United States, and a very sincere and accomplished Mason. He says :

"It has been but about thirty years since the first Royal Arch Chapter (Far West No. 1, at Fayetteville,) was established in this State. When this Grand Chapter was organized, on the 28th of April, 1851, there were but four chapters in the State. Now there are fifty-five upon our register, forty-seven of which are chartered and eight under dispensations."

This is truly a gratifying record to present in a State so distant and isolated.

An exemplification of the work was given before the Grand Chapter, but on actual candidates tendered by two subordinate Chapters, and not on Royal Arch Masons, as we believe they have done on former occasions.

Comp. Luke E. Barber is still the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and we regret he did not present any report at this Convocation.

The Committee on Masonic Law and Usage presented the following interesting report :

'To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter Arkansas :

"The Committee on Masonic Law and Usage, to which was referred the following question, propounded by Companion Stone, to-wit:

"'A Companion being regularly suspended from the Lodge for gross unmasonic conduct, and the Chapter notified officially, afterwards the Chapter is officially notified that he has been reinstated by a vote of *sixteen to five*. Has the High Priest or Chapter the right to disregard said notice and still treat him as suspended?' have had the same under consideration and after careful examination have decided :

"1 The suspension of a Mason in a Blue Lodge for unmasonic conduct *ipso facto* suspends him in the Chapter.

"2. A restoration by the Lodge restores in the Chapter, or rather is the occasion that gives to the suspended Brother the right to be treated as a Companion by the Chapter.

"But these questions being thus settled, another more troublesome and difficult question arises in this case, and that is, 'Did the Lodge in law as well as in fact restore the suspended Brother?' The 15th section of the article on trials established by this Grand Lodge for the government of its subordinates provides as follows :

"SEC. 15. An expelled or suspended Mason may be restored by the Lodge in which he was expelled or suspended by the *unanimous* vote of the Lodge.' The record and notification of the Lodge conveyed upon its face the evidence that five dissented and that the vote for restoration was not *unanimous* and that the premises instead of sustaining falsified the conclusion, and showed that in law and fact he was not restored.

"The last and most troublesome question arises, to wit: Has the Chapter the right to look beyond the conclusion and thus review the errors of the Lodge? We think that it has the right in cases where the record shows the judgment of the Lodge void, as being in violation of its own laws, and we think the High Priest and Chapter could not well shut their eyes to the fact patent upon the record, showing that the judgment of restora-

tion was not only erroneous but void, and they had a right to judge for themselves. We therefore answer Companion Stone's question in the affirmative."

CALIFORNIA.

The seventeenth annual Convocation was held at San Francisco, April 11, 1871, with a representation of twenty-nine chartered Chapters and three under dispensation.

The proceedings are beautifully printed on faultless paper, and bear about them an air of prosperity and elegance. Few States present a better appearance, and none excel it, we are told, in the accuracy of work.

There were 244 exalted the past year, and there is a membership of 1,769.

The names of each Royal Arch Mason in the State are given by Chapters, and each one is *printed in full*, even if he has a half dozen names. No petition is received unless *all the names* the applicant has are written out in full. On this account few mistakes occur about names, and a valuable system prevails. When will our Grand Chapter order the same system?

Grand High Priest Grimes delivered a fine address, two pages of which he devotes to a copy of Comp. Joseph T. Brown's address on our late G. H. P. Benj. Brown French. He pays the following handsome tribute to the memory of our beloved frater:

"In August last came the sad tidings of the death of our Illustrious Companion, BENJAMIN BROWN FRENCH, Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia, who departed this life on the twelfth day of the same month. Probably no man in the United States has a more extensive Masonic acquaintance, and certainly no one was more generally beloved. Polite, generous, courteous, and affable to all with whom he came in contact, Comp. French was essentially a man of the people. The history of his life is the story of a good man's career. Pure, unselfish, and noble in every impulse of his nature, he appeared to live only that he might confer comforts and blessings upon his fellow-men. A bright light has faded from the Masonic horizon, and truly the 'mourners go about the streets' while the grave has closed over his remains, and his earthly labors are ended. We who mourn his loss may gather consolation from the fact that he has gone to receive the reward of the just made perfect."

Comp. Lawrence C. Owen presented a good report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-seven Grand Chapters, including ours for 1869 and 1870.

His review is courteous of our proceedings, but he does not seem to understand, at a distance of three thousand miles, how much damage the General Grand Chapter has done in past years to our Grand Chapter.

We ask him to read our Masonic history for the years 1867 and 1868, and learn all the facts about the formation of our Grand Chapter.

There is a large part of his report consumed in making apologies for the shortcomings of the General Grand Chapter. This same old story is as welcome as the hash on the table of a Washington boarding-house.

CANADA.

We regret that we have received no copy of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for the past year.

Its Annual Convocation has been in August heretofore, and we had hoped to get a copy of its proceedings before our report was concluded.

We have had the pleasure of receiving a visit the past year from M. E. Companion Henry Robertson, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the Dominion of Canada. We regret that his brief visit in Washington gave us no opportunity to show him the work exemplified in our Chapters, of which we feel proud, or to give him such impressions of Masonry in the national capital as our hearts desired.

We requested, on his return to Canada, answers to the following questions about Capitular Masonry in Her Majesty's Provinces, in order to give the craft here a more comprehensive idea of it; and we take pleasure in publishing his reply, which contains much interesting and valuable information, for which he will please accept our thanks :

"COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE,

"GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA,

"COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO, Nov. 4, 1871.

"MY DEAR SIR AND R. E. COMPANION : Your esteemed favor, of the 21st ult., containing certain queries, has been duly received. I regret that the limited time allowed for reply is insufficient to enable me to procure for you as full information on the subjects as I could wish. I am confident that the investigation into the early history of Capitular Masonry in Canada would prove highly interesting, and well repay the time expended in such research, and in the course of another year, if thought desirable, I might be able to furnish you with proper dates and more extensive information on the points you suggest. At present, I fear that my replies will be considered somewhat meagre in affording any light on the questions submitted.

1st. It is not very clear when Mark Lodges were first introduced into Canada. At this time, I am only informed of one, which was located at Quebec, and derived its authority from Ireland.

2d. It is equally difficult to determine the first introduction of Royal Arch Masonry into Canada, from the fact that the degree was originally conferred by virtue of a Blue Lodge warrant; but the records of St. John's Lodge, Kingston, exhibit the fact that a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was formed in that place as early as the year 1797, the Companions assuming to themselves the inherent right to hold a Chapter and confer the degree. In addition to this, a Chapter was held, at an early date, in Niagara, and I am credibly informed of a certificate being in existence, belonging to a Companion here, which is dated 1796, and was issued by a Chapter meeting in the city of Quebec, so that there is no doubt that the R. A. Degree was regularly worked in Canada prior to those dates. I may also state that it appears that the Mark, Past and Most Excellent Degrees were not given here before 1801, as they were not considered essential or as necessary to the attainment of the Royal Arch. They were worked from 1801 till 1818, and thereafter discontinued.

3d. At the formation of the Grand Chapter of Canada, in 1857, the Mark and Royal Arch Degrees were united in Chapters as in the United States.

4th. In common with other Grand Chapters, the Grand Chapter of Canada assumed the inherent right to confer the Mark, Past and Most

Excellent Degrees, and no necessity existed for any derivation of authority for so doing.

5th. There are no Mark Lodges now existing in the Dominion of Canada, that I am aware of.

6th. The Degrees of Select, Royal and Super-Excellent Masters are conferred in Canada. They were at first given under the authority of a Grand Council in the Province of New Brunswick, and now under the recently established Grand Council for Ontario. This latter was formed at Toronto in August last.

7th. The original Chapters uniting in the formation of the Grand Chapter of Canada, or subsequently affiliating with it, were eleven in number. Of these six were English, four Irish, and one Scotch.

I may also inform you that at the organization of the Grand Chapter of Canada, the constitution of the Grand Chapter of England was adopted, *mutatis mutandis*, as its constitution, with the following reservations:

That the principal offices should be annually elective.

That in order to assimilate with the usages of Royal Arch Masonry in the United States, the three Degrees not recognized by the Grand Chapter of England, the Mark, Past, and Most Excellent, should be taken as a requisite to *membership* in any Chapter under this jurisdiction, but that R. A. Masons who received their degrees in any regularly warranted Chapter in any other jurisdiction should be admitted as visitors to any Canadian Chapter, when working in the R. A. degree, or in any degree which such visitors should have regularly taken.

I shall be pleased to hear from you again, and to give you any further assistance in my power, and hope that these scraps of information may be of use to you in your researches.

Believe me to remain, dear Sir and R. E. Companion,

Yours fraternally,

HENRY ROBERTSON,

Chairman of Foreign Correspondence, Canada.

J. EDWIN MASON, Esq.,

Grand Chapter of District of Columbia, Washington.

ADDENDA—CANADA, 1871.

After the completion of our report for 1871, the proceedings of the Grand Chapter came to hand, dressed in Royal Blue.

The fourteenth Annual Convention was held in the City of Hamilton, August 9, 1871.

M. E. Comp. T. Douglass Harrington gave an address as Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter. He had granted dispensations to three new Chapters, two of them at Montreal.

These were needed in Montreal, the Grand Z. says, because the Companions had allowed the quarrel about the new Grand Lodge of Quebec to become a matter of strife in the ballot-box. He says the new Grand Lodge of Quebec is an accomplished fact, already recognized by twenty-three Gr. Lodges, and that a new Grand Chapter in each of the Provinces will soon be established.

He urges more charity, kindness, and love, and less anger and bitterness.

The reports of the "Grand Superintendents" were received, and

showed that Capitular Masonry was flourishing throughout the Dominion. There seems to be forty-five Chapters in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and two in New Brunswick. The oldest is "Ancient Frontenac," at Kingston, established in 1795.

Among the proceedings we find the following :

"The M. E. Grand Z. announced in Grand Chapter that he had been present at the formation in Toronto of a Grand Council of 'Royal and Select Masters,' for the Province of Ontario."

We also find, on another page, the following strange purpose of uniting the Commandery with the Council degrees; also the Scotch Rite and all other degrees laying around loose, into the Grand Chapter. The author is not in any Insane Asylum, because we saw him here, in Washington, last September.

"R. E. Comp. R. Ramsay gave notice that at the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter he will move that the Constitution be so amended as to include all the degrees of the A. and A. Rite, Royal Order of Scotland, Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, Royal Ark Mariner, and also the degrees of Criptic Masonry, as being recognized by this Grand Chapter."

An interesting and fraternal report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. Henry Robertson, who is one of the most learned Companions of the present age. We regret he had received no copies of the proceedings of our Grand Chapter, and hence there is no review of the District of Columbia.

There is much in the report we would have copied if it had been received at an earlier day.

CONNECTICUT.

The Semi-annual Convocation was held at Meriden, November 1, 1870, twenty-one Chapters being represented. Very little business was done, but the work was exemplified in all the degrees.

The seventy-third Annual Convocation was held at New Haven, May 9, 1871, twenty-nine Chapters being represented. Grand High Priest John H. Barlow delivered a short, sensible and excellent address, filled with valuable local information. Deputy Grand High Priest Chas. W. Stearns, Grand King W. W. Lee, and Grand Scribe S. T. Bartlett, all gave good reports of the craft where they had visited. It is the custom in Connecticut for these officers to take a certain number of Chapters to visit annually, and report upon their condition, instruct them in the work, and perform duties similar to those of our Grand Visitor and Lecturer.

A memorial page is devoted to the memory of M. E. Companion Eliphalet Gilman Storer, who filled the office of Grand Secretary for a quarter of a century with remarkable integrity and ability. The writer knew him well, and in boyhood days learned to love and respect him as one of the purest and best men to be found in the "Elm City," and one of the most faithful Masons.

The genial and accomplished Grand Secreatry Wheeler still persists in

putting down the residence of *our* Grand Secretary as being in 'Milford,' in the District of Columbia.

Is it any wonder that our proceedings from Connecticut come from friends, and do not come *officially*.

Come to Washington, Companion Wheeler, and we will convince you that our Grand Secretary lives in this city, and not in the ancient, witchcraft town of Milford.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Companion Luke A. Lockwood, one of the most gifted and able writers on Masonry in America, and an author of some useful works on Freemasonry.

We want to extract some of his good things for our readers, but cannot tell where to begin or where to end. His review of our Grand Chapters is fraternal and yet critical.

He thinks that if one Grand High Priest steals the address of another in a sister jurisdiction, and palms it off as his own, it is not stealing. We call each plagiarism the meanest kind of thieving. As long as stealing is a crime, all thieves who are guilty of such conduct shall be held up to the scorn and contempt of all honest men, and no words of *blarney* will excuse their crimes. Our good Companion wants us to get up an original address for a G. H. P., and get it patented here in the Patent Office, ready for the time he fills that office of G. H. P.

We positively decline going into the business of getting up addresses for Grand High Priests, as it is all we can do here to furnish members of Congress with speeches which they palm off on their constituents as their own.

Perhaps our good friend does not think it is stealing to take a majority of these addresses, because, in order to make it a theft, *some value* must be attached to whatever is stolen, and these have no value.

This would be like the New Haven clergyman going to Fairfield to preach, who saw a ragged boy fishing on Sunday in the Naugatuck river.

"My dear boy," said he, "did you not know you were violating one of God's commandments by fishing here on Sunday?"

"No damage done yet," said the boy, folding up his line, "'cause I hain't kitched nothing."

DELAWARE.

The Third Annual Convocation was held at Dover, January 18, 1871, representatives from four Chapters being in attendance.

Grand High Priest Daniel C. Godwin delivered an address in which he pays the following eloquent tribute to the memory of our late Grand High Priest, B. B. French :

"One most near to us all, whose endearing name had become a household word among Masons of this country, has been called off from present labor to future rewards. Skilled in the work—decided in his devotion to the craft, excelled by none in all that constitutes the warm-hearted Mason and gentleman, was our beloved and lamented Companion, BENJAMIN BROWN FRENCH, Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia, who received the grand summons on the 12th day of August last. His was,

indeed, the true fame, and worthy of all mention by those who knew him; and in the language of one who has pronounced a most fitting eulogy upon his life and character, I would here add : Let us then apply our hearts to the solemn lesson—let us follow in his footsteps over the sands of time, so that when we, too, are called to pass from this living death to eternal life, we may be received as true and tried stones that will not be rejected or thrown aside as unfit for that spiritual building above.”

On the question of substitutes he has the following solid chunk of wisdom :

“I would also call attention to the question of substitutes, which I find, from a review of the proceedings of other Grand Chapters, is agitating the Masonic mind in the various jurisdictions. The practice of using substitutes is as old, well nigh, as R. A. Masonry itself; without which practice I conceive the rural districts, at least, would oftentimes be placed in a sad dilemma. We can all of us here, I think, readily imagine the difficulty that would ensue in abandoning it. Indeed, it would, to my mind, be simply absurd to cherish such an idea. Our fathers established it—their wisdom is manifest; and let us, therefore, hold fast to that which we have proven to be good.”

Yes, if your fathers took their corn to mill on the Brandywine for grinding, across the back of a mule with a stone in one end of the sack and the corn in the other, you should do so, because your fathers did. Or, if your fathers believed in the Delaware whipping-post, you should do so. This is the only way good old things can be transmitted to posterity.

Comp. Nicholson made the announcement that he had received the proceedings of nearly all the Grand Chapters, but made no report for want of time during the entire year, which is always a convenient excuse for laziness.

The General Grand Chapter, at its late session at Baltimore, referred to this Grand Chapter the papers and case of Past Grand High Priest Geo. W. Chaytor, and all eyes are now turned to this new Grand Chapter, to see if it has magnanimity and true Masonic feeling enough to restore him to membership. He was expelled without a hearing while the troubles about the organization were in progress. Exactly such a case occurred with a Past Grand High Priest in this city while our Grand Chapter troubles were in progress. When the war was over we took back again, with all his honors, this same Past Grand High Priest, and he is now loyal to this Grand Chapter. Will Delaware profit by our example?

There is only a handful of Royal Arch Masons in Delaware—only one-seventh as many as are in this city; so we put the question in true earnestness : cannot they live together in peace? Forgetting the past, they should determine to struggle together in future as Companions of one mind. Let them profit by our experience in the District of Columbia.

ENGLAND.

We take pleasure in announcing that our Grand Chapter is the first in America to enter into reciprocal correspondence with the governing body of Capitular Masonry in England.

The interchange of fraternal sympathy was closely followed by the arrival in Washington of the Right Honorable Marquis of Ripon, Grand Principal Z., of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England.

The pleasure of receiving, in the National Capital, the first officer of Capitular Masonry in England, was so great that a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm carried away the hearts of our Companions, and a desire was manifested to entertain him with that hospitality for which the Masons of Washington are proverbial. We were not only satisfied that Her Majesty had selected the right man to settle the unfortunate disputes between this country and England, but that the Masons of America and England would help along the object of the mission. The mother of Royal Arch Masonry had sent the Chief Architect of her Temple to the house of her daughter, where Masonic greetings of the most fraternal character were exchanged.

In order to properly greet the Grand Principal Z. of England, it was proposed to get up a grand banquet in his honor here in the National Capital, and invite the most distinguished Masons from all parts of the United States to meet the Royal guest.

A magnificent banquet was prepared in the Masonic Temple, which excelled anything of the kind ever seen in Washington, and there, under the flags of the United States and Great Britain woven together, with cheers fraternal and salutations of hundreds of the most distinguished Masons of America, the first officer of Capitular Masonry in England was presented to the prominent Masons of the United States.

The flags and streamers, the wreaths and flowers, the paintings, statuary, and gorgeous decorations of the Temple, as well as the delicacies from all parts of the earth that loaded down the tables, all furnished a pleasing picture for the eye to rest upon; but the sincere and hearty salutations that met our distinguished guest, that came so heartily from American hearts, were grander, and more truly were the triumph of the hour. When the bands played "God Save the Queen," and "Rule Britannia," as well as "Yankee Doodle," and "The Star Spangled Banner," we felt that the music united all present in one common brotherhood. There seemed welling up in our hearts the old sentiment :

"A union of lakes, a union of lands,
A union that none can sever;
A union of hearts, a union of hands,
And our glorious Union forever."

Our English guests forgot their country for a moment, and we forgot ours, and we were joined together in the bonds of Masonry, which we trust may never be broken. "Alabama claims" were forgotten, and the claims of humanity and Masonry ruled the hour and sat upon the throne as the monarchs we obeyed. In generous wine we pledged the health of the Queen, and in the same cup our English guests honored our republican President, here in republican America. Our eminent Masonic Companions, Right Hon. Marquis of Ripon, Lord Tenderden, and Sir

John A. McDonald, undoubtedly felt that warm Masonic hearts surrounded them, and in this they were not mistaken.

When dignified Senators and Representatives, together with the leading officials of the United States Government, all present as Masons, tendered their sympathies and congratulations to our guests, they did it with sincere hearts.

And in the "wee sma' hours," when the time for parting came, we felt that a union had been formed never to be broken between hearts in England and America. And when we bade our friends adieu there was sincerity in the words of the ballad sung—

"When shall we meet again,
Meet ne'er to sever;
When will peace wreath her chain
Round us forever."

Correspondence with all parts of the United States shows the interest the craft in this country felt in the entertainment of the first officer of English Masonry, as well as his colleagues on the Joint High Commission.

Their visit here has not only united England and America in peace, and buried—we trust forever—the perplexing questions that distracted the two nations, but bound together with a Mason's grip the Companions in the old world and the new.

May the silver cord that binds us together in these halcyon days of peace strengthen the mystic tie in Masonry, and help to throw off the chains of bigotry, vice, and prejudice that have injured Masonry in other countries on the globe.

We have received officially the proceedings of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England for the "quarterly convocations" of August 5, 1868; November 4, 1868; February 3, 1869; May 5, 1869; August 4, 1869; November 3, 1869; February 2, 1870, and May 4, 1870.

M. E. Comp. The Earl DeGrey and Ripon..... K. G. Z.

" " The Earl of Carnarvon..... H.

" " The Lord de Tafley J.

E. Comp. John Hervey..... E.

And a full complement of other officers presided over the deliberations of the Grand Chapter at its stated convocations.

The total number of Chapters on the roll number 1,322, and are scattered over every part of the world. They are chartered in connection with some lodge, and not separate and distinct in their chartered rights from Symbolic Masonry, as in Scotland and the United States.

The Royal Arch is the only degree known in English Chapters; the Mark degree being conferred in Mark lodges, and the Past Master and Most Excellent Master unknown.

The following is cut from the proceedings:

"A correspondence with the recently formed Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, and a circular upon the same subject, from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, have been laid before the committee, which they have

carefully perused, and now submit to the consideration of the Supreme Grand Chapter. They suggest, however, that the Grand Lodge of England, having recognized the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, the Supreme Grand Chapter of England has scarcely anything to do in the matter. The Supreme Grand Chapters of England and Scotland are in very different positions; the former only issuing charters to be attached to lodges under the English Constitution, and being in close alliance with the Grand Lodge, such charters would naturally cease upon the severance of the lodges in Nova Scotia from that Constitution. The latter not being united or in any way connected with the lodges under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, issues its charters totally irrespective of that body, and consequently the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland is quite at liberty to pursue a totally independent course."

In all parts of the United States the valuable contribution to our knowledge of Capitular Masonry, made by M. E. Comp. William James Hughan, of Truro, England, and published in our proceedings last year, has been read and widely copied.

Our thanks have been officially tendered to him from our Grand Chapter, and the thanks of Companions in all parts of the United States have come to us, for obtaining and publishing so much valuable Masonic information.

We take pleasure in laying before the Companions in the District of Columbia, and also in other jurisdictions, another letter from Companion Hughan, for which he will please accept our thanks.

It is briefer than the one published last year, and is a review of our proceedings for 1870 from an English standpoint, and gives his views about Masonry in the United States. We propose to answer some of his questions, but cannot reply to all of them without putting on paper the secret work of the Chapter, which would be impossible.

The following letter is given entire :

TRURO, ENGLAND, 28th Sept., 1871.

To the Worthy Chairman of Foreign Correspondence, D. C.

Dear Bro. Dr. MASON :

I write at once on receipt of your esteemed communication of the 7th inst., to say that by some unexplained cause your "long letter" has never reached me. I had, first of all, a most fraternal communication from you, dated April 8th, 1870, which was duly answered, and the reply inserted at length in the excellent report of the "Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia," 1870.

I subsequently received a letter from your Grand Secretary, Bro. N. D. Larnier, thanking me for my sketch of the Craft in Europe, and informing me of the most flattering vote of your Grand Chapter. The G. Sec., at same time, very kindly forwarded ten copies of the Report for my distribution in this country, which I have done accordingly, and the recipients have been equally pleased as myself with the good spirit and Masonic zeal which is reflected throughout its pages; and more particularly are we gratified with the "Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence," as we have presented to us in a nutshell an epitomized history of Royal Arch Masonry in the United States.

The letter from Comp. Larnier is dated February 3d, 1871, and I can assure you that these two are all the communications I have received. Indeed, I sent to Comp. Fellows, of Manchester, N. H., (a fast Masonic friend of mine, who wrote me directly the Report by your Grand Chapte

was published,) to see or write you, as I had not heard from you of receipt of my letter of April 28th, 1870. I regret the non-receipt of your letter exceedingly, as for certain it was *well worth a perusal*, and thus the loss is mine irretrievably.

So much by way of explanation. I now will write you a few remarks on the Report itself of 1870, so as to set right any misconceptions with respect to the craft in Europe, and will do so to you annually, on receipt of each Report, if you so desire.

I think we, as Royal Arch Companions and as Masons, are bound to communicate what information we can to the "general store;" and therefore, if the Grand Chapter, at their assembly, desire any subject with respect to the craft in my country to be elucidated, it is only for that illustrious body to propound a series of questions to me to secure their being answered.

1. G. Chapter of Alabama:

"No substitutes are allowed in Alabama in conferring the R. A. Degree. Can you tell me the origin of the custom thus to require *three* candidates at each exaltation?" I have the earliest Constitution of the Royal Arch for England (from whence American R. A. Masonry was derived), but they contain no such requirement as to non-substitution; and the custom in this country, Scotland, and Ireland, has always been to admit one or more candidates at a Convocation, irrespective of there being *three* or otherwise.

I am confident the stringent regulation which prevails in Alabama, and in other Grand Chapters in the United States, will be gradually repealed, as it is calculated to do harm instead of good. Example: three candidates present themselves for exaltation. One is most unsuitable, and yet as the friends of the other two candidates desire an exaltation to take place, they vote for the *third*, as otherwise their friends would have to wait for another meeting. In this way improper candidates might be accepted; and, for my part, I cannot see any grounds for such a law.

2. Grand Chapter of Arkansas:

"Dropping of the Past Master's Degree." This is a question which is bound to crop up and demand consideration. In England the degree is given to a duly elected Master to the Chair of a Craft Lodge, and then only in the presence of three or more installed Masters. It is only under the authority of the Grand Lodge, and P. M.'s of the Royal Arch making are not admitted to any of their assemblies.

In Scotland the degree is given *as with you*, under the Grand Chapter, and as the *fifth* in Capitular Freemasonry.

There is, however, a probability of the G. Chap. of Scotland waiving their right to work this degree, provided the Grand Lodge would take it under their superintendence. I mention this because, unless the Grand Lodge of Arkansas (and so for all jurisdictions) is ready to assume the authority to confer the Past Master's Degree, as with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, (which is the nearest to the English Rite of any in the United States,) it would be absurd to "drop" the degree, as it would then be without a head. It is quite certain that candidates for the R. A. during the last century were required to take the P. M. as a necessary prerequisite in this country, and the degree was conferred in a Craft Lodge, in order to enable candidates for the R. A. to be in possession of all the preliminaries to exaltation.

3. Grand Chapter of Canada:

The "Mark Grand Lodge of England" has been recognized by Canadian authorities, and wisely so, because it is the only governing body for Mark Masonry in England. The Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter have both refused to take it under their wings, and hence the Lodges of the Mark Degree have formed their own Grand Lodge, and have about 100

warrants in active operation. I have the honor of being a Past Grand Overseer of this body, and hope to see the day when the Grand Chapter of Scotland (to which I owe allegiance) will recognize it. The Grand Chapter of Ireland acknowledges its certificates, and the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar, and the Supreme Grand Council 33° for England have formed a treaty with it, and recognized it as the only legitimate governing body for Mark Masons in England. A conference was held in London, in April last, to consider the question as to its recognition by the Grand Chapters of Scotland and Ireland, and at which these bodies were represented, as also the Grand Lodge of Scotland, (which permits the Mark Degree to be given in a Craft Lodge,) and much *good* is likely to result from their deliberations.

32. The "Council Degrees," I quite agree with you, (at page 80 of your excellent and most racy Report,) are not suitable for incorporation with the Grand Chapters of the United States, and I hope yet that Virginia will expel them from its rule and permit its members to manage their own affairs. They are simply copies of degrees under the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and, like that body, are nothing like so ancient as Royal Arch Masonry.

4. Grand Chapter of Maryland :

The "Council Degrees" are likewise in question at page 51, and it is evident, for the sake of consistency and Masonic custom, the Grand Chapters act most unwisely in endeavoring to control such an organization. These "Council Degrees" have just been introduced into England from the United States, where they were manufactured; but really we are already suffering from a plethora of Masonic degrees, many of which are of questionable antiquity and of little worth, and therefore the introduction of more such is to be lamented. There are many in this country, and their number is on the increase, who would vote for the retention only of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry, and let the money spent in supporting the other organizations be devoted to that "distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart—charity."

5. Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia :

The remarks at page 67 are sound, and will bear investigation. The Mark Grand Lodge has Lodges under its banner which have worked the degree for more than a century, and certainly if any body has a right to confer the degree, *it has*.

6. Grand Chapter of England :

It is *not true* that Royal Arch Masonry in England "is monopolized by the aristocracy and nobility." The degree is as much open to worthy men as the Craft, and we defy any one to prove otherwise. We regret the Grand Chapter does nothing by way of representation, and thus unfavorably contrasts with the excellent system pursued in Scotland; but for all that, it is nothing like an oligarchy, and its isolated system is entirely owing to the union of A. D. 1813, which connected it so completely with the Craft Grand Lodge, and which proclaimed the Royal Arch to be the "completion of the Third Degree." Hence the Grand Chapter is virtually represented by the members of the Grand Lodge, whose chief is the First Principal of the Grand Chapter *ex officio*. I am delighted the Grand Chapter of Scotland has exchanged Representatives with the Grand Chapter of Columbia.

I conclude with best wishes to you and all worthy Companions in the United States,

And remain yours fraternally,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

It is with great pleasure that we lay the above letter before our American Masons, as it gives much information from an English standpoint in Masonry.

We shall certainly propound questions to our learned Companion annually, and ask his advice and criticism freely. If Masons would only communicate what information they possess, as frankly as our worthy Companion, there would not be so much ignorance on both sides of the Atlantic about Masonry.

In regard to the questions asked, we will try and answer them with our American eyes and ears, and heart fully in love with the Capitular Masonry we practice in the United States.

1st. He asks why no substitutes are allowed in conferring the Royal Arch Degree in most of the States in America. We cannot answer this question without referring him to the O. B., and the secret work of that degree. He will understand that we cannot put on paper what we could explain to him verbally. The symbolism is explained so well by Companion Luke A. Lockwood, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for Connecticut, in his report for 1871, that we copy it as follows :

"Why was the number three fixed upon? We venture to suggest in response to this inquiry, so far as it is proper so to do in writing, that the grand central point and the object of the Mason's work through all the degrees, and the final reward he receives for his labor, could not be obtained unless in the presence of three Companions. Three has by all people and from all time been esteemed the symbol of Deity, and is therefore intimately connected with what immediately pertains to His name and presence. This will be perceived in the compact of our three Ancient Grand Masters, in the Broken Triangle, and at a later day in the three Ancient Brethren, the types of our Grand Master, who went up to rebuild the temple and city of Jehovah. They sought that which was lost, and as a condition of its finding, the same number three must be present to receive it, as by the absence of one it had many years before been lost. The representation is historical, and so long as the facts of the traditional history are preserved and the presence of *three weary sojourners* is secured to receive the lost treasure, the design of the requirement in our judgment is fully answered. It is impossible to further amplify and illustrate these last suggestions upon paper, but many other confirmatory circumstances will be readily suggested pointing to the same grand design."

In the District of Columbia no substitutes are allowed, and no inconvenience is ever felt in consequence of it. Wherever the custom prevails of using substitutes, it is pleaded as a matter of *convenience* and nothing more, like the plea entered by Comp. Hughan. It is a matter of *principle* with us that prohibits their use, and a desire not to violate our obligations. When one of our Chapters in this city has but two candidates for the Royal Arch, they go to the M. · E. · H. · P. · of another Chapter and take one of their candidates waiting for this degree, and make up the trio. In this way we borrow and lend candidates and experience no trouble whatever. At the late Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter at Baltimore, a resolution was passed *allowing* substitutes, but strongly *condemning their use*, and urging Grand Chapters to prohibit the practice. So our

General Grand Chapter sits straddle the fence on this question, as it does on most others.

2d. In regard to the question of dropping the Past Master's degree referred to by Comp. Hughan, the question has often been settled by the Royal Craft in America, and there is no prospect of ever "dropping that degree," as one of those conferred in American Chapters.

A very insignificant number of Royal Arch Masons have agitated the question of "dropping the degree." These finally got the question before the General Grand Chapter at its late Triennial Convocation in Baltimore, where a discussion for two hours was given them, and it was decided not to "drop it" by an almost unanimous vote.

There is no more probability of any Grand Lodge in the United States assuming authority over and conferring the Past Master's degree, than there is of any Grand Chapter assuming authority over the Master Mason's degree, and working it as a part of the Royal Arch, or the Fellow Craft as a part of the Mark Master's degree, for both are closely assimilated to each other.

3d. It seems too bad that the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England should both refuse to take the Mark Master's degree under their wings. In England it seems to be an orphan without protection, and like Japhet in search of a father. It had better join hands with the Red Cross in Knighthood, which is another orphan in the same situation, everywhere except in the United States, where it is allowed only by courtesy. These degrees might join hands and get married.

4th. The Select, Royal, and Super Excellent Master's degrees, as you may be advised, are not conferred in *Chapters* in any States except Maryland and Virginia, where they were added to the degrees in the *Chapters* at a time many years ago, when lodges, chapters, and councils all became nearly extinct during the days of anti-Masonry. The degrees were united in Virginia, we believe, in 1841, and have since then been conferred in Chapters. The Super Excellent Master's degree has never been conferred in Maryland or Virginia, and the Select and Royal degrees are strangely sandwiched between the Most Excellent Master's and Royal Arch, same as they were in the District of Columbia previous to the organization of our Grand Chapter in 1867. Since that date no Council degrees have ever been conferred in Chapters in Washington, and they are prohibited from being so conferred by a standing resolution of our Grand Chapter. A council has since been established here, where all three degrees are conferred as they are all over the United States, and it is in a very flourishing condition.

This gives our experience in the District of Columbia with Cryptic and Capitular Masonry.

5th. There are Grand Councils now in twenty-nine States, and Cryptic Masonry is quite as flourishing in the United States as Symbolic or Capitular. Our oldest Chapter in the United States is St. Andrews, at Boston, chartered from Scotland in 1769. Only a few Chapters existed previous to

1810, and these were in a very precarious condition, and in about the same situation Symbolic Masonry was found. About this date, and for a few years previous, and immediately succeeding the war of 1812 with Great Britain, Masonry took a start, and became quite a flourishing Order. For twenty years afterward all branches of Masonry were very popular. It was during this period that Cryptic Masonry was introduced, and the Knights Templar also got a foothold in the United States.

Boston Council of Select, Royal, and Super Excellect Masters was chartered in 1817, Springfield Council 1818, and Salem Council in 1818. In nearly all the old States on the Atlantic coast Cryptic Masonry was established about these years; so it will be seen that these degrees have been worked in the United States from fifty to sixty years. In half a century they have been firmly planted on our soil.

We trust our English brethren will not unite any other degrees with their Councils, as the Companions in New Brunswick have done. A singular condition of things exist there at present. A new Grand Council was formed in New Brunswick two years ago, from authority from Maine, conferring the Select, Royal and Super Excellent Master's degrees. As the Red Cross was now allowed to be conferred in their commanderies, by their charters, they conceived a brilliant idea of gobbling up this "soup degree," and placing it *in their Councils*, where it is now conferred. They would have placed it in their Chapters probably, but they had no Grand Chapter in New Brunswick, and got their charters from England and Scotland, where such things are not allowed.

The strangest part of this performance is that these Companions appealed to Companion Gardner, Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States, to sustain them, and he issued an edict with all the gravity in the world, ordering all Knights Templar in the United States to recognize these Red Cross Knights *made in a Council* of Select, Royal, and Super Excellent Masters! But the Masonic world look upon the whole affair as a very good joke, too good to keep quiet.

FLORIDA.

The twenty-fourth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held January 10, 1871, in Tallahassee, eight Chapters being represented. The Committee on Credentials and Returns complain that quite a number of Chapters are in arrears for dues three years, and unrepresented.

Grand High Priest Dewitt C. Dawkins delivered an excellent address, from which we extract the following :

"Our people, like children and cripples, learning and relearning to walk, are beginning, if but slowly, to survive the misfortunes and hardships of the past, and when the spring of prosperity has once more begun to flourish in our lovely floral State, Royal Arch Masonry will feel its influence and flourish and be useful in proportion. May the days of former prosperity ere long return, and even be exceeded, and then may all in the land be glad.

"Since our last assembling here, our Father above hath been pleased to

demand one of the most active and useful links in our Mystic Circle. Our Excellent Grand Secretary, Edward Bradford, jr., will meet with us in our earthly Tabernacles no more. He laid down the working tools of his terrestrial quarries on the 20th of July, 1870, and it becomes your fraternal duty to make a suitable record of his memory. He fell a victim of disease in the years of buoyant manhood, with nothing to thwart the liveliest of hopes of living to a ripe old age; but the brittle thread of life is suddenly cut and he is here no more."

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Companion Thomas A. Carouth, and is very courteous and fraternal, and as fragrant as the "land of flowers" from whence it came. Our report, and our Grand Chapter, both receive complimentary notices in his review of three pages he devotes to us.

GEORGIA.

Annual convocation assembled at Augusta, April 26, 1871, with a very creditable representation of the Chapters from all parts of the State.

G. H. P. Kellogg delivered a well-written address, covering eight closely printed pages.

The proceedings are printed on fine paper and gotten up in fine typographical appearance.

Everything about the reports shows prosperity among the craft, and we rejoice that our beloved Companions are recovering from the effects of the late war. God bless them and prosper them. Although their learned ROCKWELL has gone to rest, yet they have left Lawrence, and many others we have learned to admire in Washington.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Companion J. Emmett Blackshear, and is one of the very best we have read in the huge pile before us marked 1871.

His report covers 55 pages, and has the merit of brevity and perspicuity. He devotes seven pages to extracts from our report of last year, prefacing the same with the following criticism:

"The report on Foreign Correspondence is a highly meritorious paper, and does great credit to its talented author, Companion John Edwin Mason. The only objection we find to it is that the Doctor's caustic preparations are in some cases a LITTLE BIT too strong. He is severe in his denunciations of the General Grand Chapter, but as the Grand Chapter of Georgia has long since severed its connection with that body, we will not JOIN ISSUE with him on that account."

ILLINOIS.

The twenty-first Annual Convocation was held at Chicago, Oct. 7, 1870, with representatives present numbering 156.

The total number of Chapters chartered is 138, with several under dispensation.

There are 8,405 Royal Arch Masons in good standing in Illinois—the largest of any State except New York.

The proceedings are beautifully printed on magnificent paper, and make a book of 175 pages.

Grand High Priest John M. Pearson made a good address, filled with local matters. He urges the reduction of dues from subordinate Chapters, because the Grand Chapter is getting so rich, and it does not know what to do with the money.

The Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address offered the following resolutions, which were adopted :

"Resolved, That Master Masons, made by a Lodge under dispensation, are entitled to petition for the Chapter degrees.

"Resolved, That a protest against the advancement of a brother to the degrees of the Chapter has the same force, and no more, as the rejection by ballot."

The most distinguished Mason in Illinois offered the following :

"Comp. H. G. Reynolds submitted the following resolution, which was tabled by the following vote : aff., 80 ; neg., 11, viz. :

"Resolved, That the Representatives of this Grand Chapter, in the General Grand Chapter of the United States, are hereby instructed to introduce a proposition to dissolve the General Grand Chapter, and to advocate the same; and in case the General Grand Chapter does not dissolve, that said Representatives are instructed to ask leave to withdraw this Grand Chapter from its membership in the General Grand Chapter."

Immediately after this was laid on the table, the following resolution, offered by the Deputy Grand High Priest, was passed :

"E. Comp. James A. Hawley presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That the Representatives of this M. E. Grand Chapter to the M. E. General Grand Chapter of the United States be instructed to advocate and vote for the dissolution of the same."

But the Delegates did not do as ordered at Baltimore ; for no chance was presented, and they did not have pluck enough to introduce the subject.

Grand Secretary James H. Miles presented an excellent report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-seven Grand Chapters, ours for 1869 included. It covers fifty-three pages, and is one of rare merit and fraternal spirit.

Substitutes are prohibited in conferring the R. A. Degree in Illinois, and hence he alludes to the action of our Grand Chapter as follows :

"The Grand Chapter disapproves of the use of substitutes 'in any of the Capitular Degrees' (we know of but one degree in which they may be used), and very rightly prohibits the practice in the jurisdiction.

"Comp. Jno. Edwin Mason presents a very able and interesting Report on Foreign Correspondence, covering seventy-eight closely printed pages of the proceedings, reviewing the transactions of thirty-three Grand Chapters, among which Illinois, for 1868, finds a place and kindly mention."

INDIANA.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation was held at Indianapolis, October 19, 1870.

Grand High Priest Hazelrigg presented his annual address, which covers some twenty pages, and embraces a partial, though unsatisfactory, review

of the proceedings of all other Grand Chapters. They have a queer way in Indiana of making their Grand High Priest perform the duties that in all other Grand Chapters devolve on the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. This is hard on the Grand High Priest, yet they make him earn his honors. In his address he takes up the question of using substitutes in conferring the R. A. degree, and concludes that, because the number of our exaltations in our Chapters is not "divisible by three," that, therefore, we use substitutes. This is incorrect. We use no substitutes. Our Grand Chapter prohibits it. But when any of our Chapters want a candidate to make up a trio, they borrow and lend with each other, to make up their numbers. This would lead any one to suppose in footing our returns that we use substitutes. We copy the following from his address :

"The position that a Companion must first serve as King or Scribe before he is eligible to the office of High Priest is held by some, though by but few; yet by some whose position entitles their opinions to respect. I suppose this position is taken from the general ruling, that a brother must first have served as Warden before he is eligible to the office of Master of a lodge. It is a safe practice, when Chapter Masonry has no rule on any given point, to follow the rules and practice of the lodge, when the cases are analogous or parallel. In this the analogy is so remote that it is hardly perceptible. The office of Warden may in some degree prepare a brother for the discharge of the duties of Master, but there is nothing in the office of King or Scribe that will in any degree produce qualifications for the discharge of the duties of a High Priest. Indeed, there is no office in a Chapter, except, perhaps, that of Treasurer and Guard, but what would be more calculated to prepare for the office of High Priest than that of either King or Scribe. The best rule for the selection of officers for any association is that of merit and adaptation to the discharge of the duties required; consequently in our jurisdiction we have required no other qualification than that of merit and being the choice of the companions. And seeing no good reason for a change in our practice, I would advise an adherence to it, even if some Companion might be elected who was but a "young" member. While age don't always bring with it wisdom, youth and ignorance are not always inseparable. If there are exceptions in either case, let us avail ourselves of them."

IOWA.

The Sixteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held at Clinton, October 15, 1870, and was opened with a representation of eighteen Chapters present, out of sixty on the rolls.

Grand High Priest Pitkin C. Wright, who signs his name to his address as 32d, in an able manner relates what has happened in his jurisdiction during the past year.

He gives some decisions in regard to Masonic law and usages, among them the following :

"I have been called on during the year to make no decisions of general importance or interest to the Craft, excepting the one called out by the great growth of the A. and A. Rite in Iowa, to wit: That having received the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite *does not* entitle their recipient to visit a Chapter and be recognized as a Royal Arch

Mason unless he has secured the degrees of the Chapter in a constitutional manner in a Royal Arch Chapter of the York Rite.

He obliges Masons to be honest to each other, and robs some justice of the peace of his legal fees, in the following style :

“Early in the spring of 1869 complaint was made to me by a Mason in Ohio that Companion —, of No. —, had borrowed twenty-five dollars’ worth of Confederate money of him, as a Mason in distress, while they were prisoners of war in Columbia, S. C., in the winter of 1864–5, and now refused to refund—the borrower being in good circumstances and the lender poor. While I do not wish or intend to make a justice’s court out of a Royal Arch Chapter, still I considered this a matter of Masonic discipline, and wrote the Chapter, asking that the matter be investigated. I saw one of the officers of the Chapter some little time afterward, and mentioned the matter to him, requesting him to see to it, but could get no response from them until December 15th, when I *ordered* them to investigate the matter, and if the facts were as stated, and the Companion would not settle it, to prefer charges against him and try him; or, if they were not willing to do so, to return their charter to me. To *this* I received a response, and charges were preferred. I so notified the brother in Ohio, and requested him to send me the testimony, which he did, and I forwarded it to them in time for the trial, which was in the latter part of March last. I intended to have been present at the trial, but sickness in my home prevented. They shortly afterward notified me that the Companion was unanimously acquitted. I, thinking this to be a gross outrage, requested them to send me the testimony and minutes of the trial, which was done, they telling me that the money was undoubtedly borrowed and not returned, but that the Companion was a valuable man and Mason—one of their best, &c., (some people have singular ideas of what constitutes one of the best men in a community,) which testimony I submit for your action and disposal.”

The Grand Secretary stated that, owing to the pressure of business, neither member of the committee had been able to find time in which to prepare the report on correspondence, and that he had, therefore, obtained the assistance of Companion U. D. Taylor to perform that duty; and presented the report, which was, on motion of Companion Woodward, received and ordered to be printed with the minutes.

The report of thirty-four Grand Chapters is written in a graceful, flowing style, and is replete with wit and humor.

He devotes nine pages to the District of Columbia, more than that to any other Grand Chapter, and opens his numerous quotations from our report for 1869, as follows :

“The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Companion J. E. Mason, and covers nearly eighty closely printed pages. He reviews thirty-six Grand Chapters, our own included. We cannot speak too highly of Companion Mason’s industry. He seems to have determined to let the world Masonic see that they need have no misgivings so far as the ‘reportorial’ was concerned, and admirably has he succeeded.”

The copy of the proceedings at hand this year is printed on elegant paper in faultless typography, covering 140 pages, and is really one of the finest pamphlets received during the current year. Its cover was so beautiful, that our Grand Secretary (once a printer) could not help putting

our proceedings in exactly such an outside dress, so that Iowa and the District of Columbia look like twin sisters.

There are many good things in this report that would be copied if we had room.

KANSAS.

The Sixth Annual Convocation was held at Atchison, October 18, 1870, fifteen Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Bassett delivered a good annual address.

A good degree of prosperity is shown by the reports. Most of the business done was of a local character.

Companion E. T. Carr presented a fine report on Foreign Correspondence, in which he reviewed the proceedings of our Grand Chapter for 1869, in a fraternal manner, copying portions of our report, and commending the same.

We extract the following from the Grand High Priest's address :

"Masonry is said to be universal. It is confined to no race, sect or country. The man who has planted his feet upon the immutable square of morality, and who stands erect in the proud consciousness of virtue, is an ornament to society, and deserves to be honored among men. When such persons are found among us, and we know them to be Master Masons in good standing and members of some Lodge subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Kansas, or subordinate to some Grand Lodge in correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Kansas, I apprehend the question will not be asked, Is he Mongolian or Malay, Caucasian, American or African; Is he Mahomedan or Greek, Jew, Christian or Worshipper of the Great Spirit; Is he from the farthest East or West, from the Frozen Zones, the Tropics or the Islands of the Sea? Therefore, I conclude, that to the Lodge must be left the solution of the question of race, which is now agitating some jurisdictions upon this side of the Atlantic. If, however, we might venture a suggestion, and we know we are treading on dangerous ground by so doing, we would say: Take the ancient constitutions, regulations and charges for your guide, study them carefully, deliberate upon them with moderation, weigh every word and sentence in a scale of equal poise, and depart not from the spirit of the law found therein. 'Did ye never read in the Scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner?'"

KENTUCKY.

The Fifty-sixth Annual Convocation met at Louisville, October 16, 1871, and the proceedings were printed so promptly that we got them just as this report had been completed, previous to our Annual Convocation.

They have 115 Chapters on their roll; the last one, U. D., named "J. Proctor Knott Chapter," in honor of the M. C. who made the famous speech in Congress last winter on "Duluth."

Grand High Priest Bostwick made a short address, mostly on local subjects.

Venerable Grand Secretary Swigert, after fifty years' labor in that position, was unable to be present, but was re-elected. God grant that his life may be spared many years more to labor for the Royal Craft.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. H. A. M. Henderson, and printed with the proceedings, although no name is attached to it in the appendix. In his review on the District of Columbia, he says he meant no disrespect to our late Grand High Priest, B. B. French, in his remarks last year, which we severely criticised. We are right glad to receive this apology, more especially since our lamented and distinguished frater has crossed over the River of Death.

LOUISIANA.

The Annual Convocation assembled February 14, 1871, in New Orleans, sixteen Chapters being represented and two under dispensation.

Number of members, 1,577 ; number exalted past year, 133. Past Grand High Priest J. E. F. Holmead, of this Grand Chapter, was appointed representative from the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Grand High Priest Hugh Breen delivered one of the best addresses we have read anywhere. Instead of opening his address with a pyramid of meaningless words, he pitches into his subject, as follows :

“COMPANIONS : It affords me pleasure to state to you that the harmony of the subordinate bodies of Capitular Masonry in our beloved State, during the past year, has been continuous, affording opportunity for the healthy growth of our institution, and giving your Grand High Priest but little to comment upon. The various subordinate bodies have performed a large amount of Masonic work during the year, and as far as I have been able to ascertain, there has been no year in the history of this grand body when the material has been more carefully selected, and the labors of the Chapters more carefully and beneficially performed. There has been no rage for making Royal Arch Masons, and the prosperous condition of our Chapters generally has relieved from duty those ardent but indiscreet Companions who are sometimes anxious to build up the financial condition of their bodies by gathering into our tabernacle from the highways and byways of Symbolic Masonry every stray brother who is able to spend or borrow enough money to pay his way to his exaltation. I regard the number of rejections reported by our Grand Secretary as a most healthy augury for the future of our Order in Louisiana.”

To all of which we beg leave to utter a loud “Amen.” He also gives the following experience in regard to a question troubling all jurisdictions in Capitular Masonry :

“By universal consent it has become, at least in this jurisdiction, a principle of Capitular Masonic jurisprudence, that where the Chapter law is silent the ordinances of the Grand Lodge are to take effect in the Royal Arch. By section 12 of article 7 of our By-Laws, trials in our Chapters must be conducted in conformity to the regulations of the Grand Lodge. At its last session the Grand Lodge repealed section 2, article 3, chapter 3 of its By-Laws, which section provided for striking from the rolls for non-payment of dues. This forces the Chapters to a formal trial of delinquent members in cases where the ability to pay dues is not accompanied by a disposition to pay. It is theoretically a feasible and just plan to compel such delinquents to account to the bodies under the influence of all the solemnity of a Masonic trial ; but after a thorough and careful application of the new rule in my own Chapter during the past year, I must emphatically say that it does not and is not likely to work

well. If a Companion is too poor to pay his dues, there is no Chapter but would cheerfully relieve him upon his application; under such circumstances he would not come to the Chapter as a mendicant, but as demanding an absolute right, guaranteed to him by the first instructions he received in the tenets of our profession. He would not ask anything in charity, but he would be entitled to relief at the hands of friends bound to him by the dearest and closest ties.

"If his estimate of Masonic friendship should be so low as to cause him to hesitate or decline to avail himself of his privilege, we may fairly consider Masonry as something not good enough for him, and his connection with it could not be severed too soon. The old rule of the Grand Lodge worked well, and I recommend that the Grand Chapter adopt some law to the same purport, as a part of the regulations."

MAINE.

The Annual Convocation assembled at Portland, May 2, 1871, with a full representation of Chapters. The annual address of G. H. P. Young, and the reports of his subordinate officers, show that most of the Chapters had been visited and the work exemplified.

Good reports are given of the prosperity of Capitular Masonry in the State.

An elaborate report was made by Companion Drummond in regard to the use of substitutes in conferring the R. A. Degree.

In 1869 he was instrumental in getting a resolution passed prohibiting substitutes.

For several years he took strong ground against their use. But now he changes front, and recommends the suspension of the resolution of 1869, and gives for his reasons some statistical data, showing how many Grand Chapters use them!

This is rather thin, and would come from nobody but a lawyer. He winks at the violation of obligation. This is of no account. Usage makes the law. And so he turns a double somersault, comes up on the other horse, and rides gracefully over to the enemy. He was also instrumental getting the "straddle bag" resolutions through the Grand Chapter, at its late session, *protesting* against their use, yet *sanctioning their usage*!

Comp. Drummond presented an able report on Foreign Correspondence, covering fifty-six pages. The most of it is devoted to a defence of the General Grand Chapter, and abuse of everybody who honestly differs with him on that subject.

He makes the most abject apologies for its wrong-doing, and as a reward for this kind of business, was elected General Grand High Priest, at the late session at Baltimore.

There are only two classes who favor the General Grand Chapter: those who hold an office in it and those who want to. We thought our eminent Companion belonged to the latter, so we wrote to him several months before the session at Baltimore, and found "Barkis was willin'." Fearing the State of New York would claim this honor again, as she has for so many years past, for her most conceited Companions, we "went for" Drummond, and had the pleasure of casting for him the vote of our Grand Chapter, at the late session at Baltimore. He was elected, and we were

happy. Others who had laid down and rolled over, and then did not get it, made us think of the story of the colored man who went to hear Whitefield preach, which Comp. Drummond knows all about. So it will be seen, that our eminent Companion really has "General Grand Chapter on the brain." His statistical table is always the best, so we copy it here :

GRAND CHAPTERS.	No. of subordinates.	Members.	Exaltations.	Admissions and restorations.	Dimissions.	Expulsions.	Suspensions.	Susp. for non-payment dues.	Deaths.	Rejections.
Alabama.....	53	2, 184	147	82	121	2	7	129	50	7
Arkansas.....	55	1, 307	240	28	90	1	0	21	20	...
California.....	40	1, 769	244	35	115	3	1	33	26	21
Canada.....	38	1, 491	211	40	92	...	1	35	19	...
Connecticut.....	29	3, 722	274	14	42	1	1	0	22	...
Delaware.....	4	187	25	1	3	0	0	0	1	...
District of Columbia	7	836	116	23	27	2	0	42	10	5
Florida.....	13	496	68	10	25	1	4	0	9	...
Georgia.....	56	2, 098	172	42	54	2	12	0	18	...
Illinois.....	146	8, 405	1, 028	73	241	10	89	...	81	...
Indiana.....	74	3, 548	497	54	105	9	37	...	35	...
Iowa.....	60	2, 556	427	45	113	0	8	15	16	...
Kansas.....	17	610	91	21	17	0	3	0	3	10
Kentucky.....	98	3, 397	379	59	134	0	...	111	44	18
Louisiana.....	26	1, 577	133	23	53	0	4	24	51	0
Maine.....	35	3, 069	381	336	46	0	0	8	23	30
Maryland.....	10	935	84	14	13	0	2	19	11	3
Massachusetts.....	50	6, 129	664	...	77	0	5	52	50	...
Michigan.....	75	5, 560	504	64	150	7	13	...	52	114
Minnesota.....	19	968	126	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mississippi.....	79	2, 583	167	132	132	1	2	169	50	...
Missouri.....	66	3, 009	478	85	160	3	2	20	30	38
Nebraska.....	5	264	58	13	4	1	0	0	2	0
New Hampshire.....	17	1, 594	167	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Jersey.....	24	1, 562	287	2	33	3	3	15	15	...
New York.....	179	15, 733	1, 927	146	289	13	7	367	170	223
North Carolina.....	20	718	20	12	12	1	0	29	19	0
Nova Scotia.....	3	...	40	2	11	0	0	0	...	...
Ohio.....	120	6, 604	679	134	301	10	4	150	71	...
Oregon.....	5	180	17	3	6	0	1	0	2	...
Pennsylvania.....	75	6, 898	884	62	238	...	236	...	...	39
Rhode Island*.....	10	1, 381	177	2	28	0	0	0	7	32
South Carolina.....	37	894	70	5	15	1	2	12	10	1
Tennessee.....	87	4, 161	368	55	180	9	...	30	63	...
Texas.....	95	3, 220	341	124	180	14	...	230	68	...
Vermont.....	24	1, 550	128	61	24	0	1	0	26	0
Virginia.....	46	1, 690	...	...	72	1	...	32	36	...
Wisconsin.....	40	2, 466	182	38	124	2	...	49	24	28
Total.....	1, 837	105, 351	11, 801	1, 840	3, 327	97	440	1, 592	1, 134	569

*Providence Chapter has 691 members.

Nearly one hundred Chapters fail to make returns, some of which have become extinct: seventeen in Alabama, six in Florida, nine in Kentucky, one in Louisiana, seven in Mississippi, three in Missouri, two in New Jersey, one in New York, three in North Carolina, six in Ohio, one in Pennsylvania, nine in South Carolina, twenty-four in Texas, and eight in Virginia.

The following is a comparative statement for three years:

	1871.		1870.		1869.	
	Grand Chapters.	Totals.	Grand Chapters.	Totals.	Grand Chapters.	Totals.
Members.....	37	105,851	37	96,275	36	87,231
Exaltations....	37	11,801	36	10,433	34	12,550
Admissions &c..	34	1,840	33	1,301	28	1,273
Dimissions....	36	5,327	31	3,214	30	2,763
Expulsions.....	34	97	32	96	29	82
Suspensions....	31	440	32	451	28	304
Exclusions....	32	1,592	23	1,272	18	1,353
Deaths.....	34	1,134	34	930	32	936

MINNESOTA.

The Tenth Annual Convocation was held at St. Paul, January 10, 1871, sixteen Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest Porter presented a first-rate address, showing up the steady growth of Capitular Masonry in this young State.

The proceedings are mostly of local interest.

Comp. Alphabet Pearson presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, but never said a word about our Grand Chapter in it. Until our Grand Chapter was recognized by the G. G. Chapter, he filled the most of his annual reports with misrepresentations about our Grand Chapter, but since that date he will allow no reference to the fact that such a Grand Chapter exists to be inserted in his reports.

Grand Secretary Combs informs the writer that our proceedings have been received and regularly transmitted to Pearson.

It seems that Pearson either refuses to review them, or even to acknowledge their receipt! This thing has been tolerated four years, and it is now time that Minnesota treated us with proper respect, or else a discontinuance of official recognition should follow.

MICHIGAN.

The Twenty-second Annual Convocation was held at Detroit, January 9, 1871, with proxies and representatives from a majority of all the subordinate Chapters, which number 74.

The proceedings are beautifully printed on tinted paper, and reflect credit on the printer, as well as the Grand Chapter.

A large amount of business was transacted. No substitutes are allowed here in the Royal Arch Degree. They proposed to abolish the office of Grand Lecturer, finding it of little use, as nearly all other Grand Chapters have done.

Grand High Priest Chas. H. Brown delivered a fine address, reviewing with much vigor the subjects presented for his consideration and decision. He alludes to a subject in which we all feel interested, here in the District of Columbia, where circulars were sent two years ago, offering to give a key to the Chapter Degrees, for a sum of money, if sent to "A. Smith, Detroit."

"I now come to the most painful part of my official duties. In the performance of the trust with which I am charged, as your presiding officer, I am under the disagreeable necessity of alluding to a matter which I would much rather pass over in silence. I cannot express my *chagrin* and *mortification*, that one so favored, and for so long a time the occupant of the highest positions in the gift of this Grand Body, should so far forget, or disregard his solemn obligations, as to render himself obnoxious to its discipline. Could ignorance or any other excuse be offered in extenuation of the wanton violations of our rules, that is proven to have occurred in the case now alluded to, I should have been glad to overlook it, in the hope that this erring Companion might go his way and sin no more. But as nothing was offered in extenuation of the Companion's offence, and being satisfied that his wilful, reckless and long continued violations of the first principles of R. A. Masonry required punishment, I saw no course left but to bring him to judgment. The necessary proof having been secured, I ordered Peninsular Chapter No. 16 to prefer charges against *Czar Jones*, P. G. H. P. of this Grand Chapter, for a violation of one of its edicts. (See proceedings 1864.)

"Charges were duly preferred, and after proper trial *Czar Jones* was suspended from all the rights and benefits of Chapter Masonry. The case, together with all the accompanying documents and papers, I now submit for your careful consideration. And I sincerely hope that you will give it that consideration which so flagrant a breach of the rules of our noble Order requires. Justice demands that it should be stamped with that infamy which it deserves. I now leave it in your hands.

"In this connection I would return my hearty thanks to those Companions, both at home and abroad, who have so ably assisted me in this disagreeable business."

Our Michigan Companions "worked up the case," and found the offending Companion to be a Past Grand High Priest of Michigan.

A special committee sent the Czar to the tomb of the Capulets, as the following, cut from the proceedings, will show :

"The Special Committee to whom was referred so much of the address of the G. H. P. as relates to the matter of Czar Jones, made the following report ; which, on motion of Comp. John Clark, was accepted, and on further motion was unanimously adopted :

"The Special Committee to which was referred so much of the M. E. Grand High Priest's address as refers to the discipline of Comp. P. G. H. P. Czar Jones, have had that subject under consideration, and beg leave to make the following report :

"Your committee have examined the proceedings of Peninsular Chap-

ter, No. 16, by which we find charges were preferred against Comp. Jones, the specifications of which alleged a violation of the following resolution of this Grand Body :

"(See proceedings Grand Chapter, 1864, page 406.)

"Your committee find that said Comp. Jones, after a fair and impartial trial before said Peninsular Chapter, was found guilty of said charges by a vote lacking but one of being unanimous, and that by a two-thirds vote the accused was indefinitely suspended from the rights and benefits of R. A. Masonry.

"Considering the great Masonic intelligence of the accused, the high and distinguished positions he has filled, and the honors conferred upon him in and by this Grand Chapter, your committee are of the opinion that the penalty inflicted by Peninsular Chapter is inadequate to the offence committed.

"Your committee, therefore, respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That Czar Jones, one of the Past Grand High Priests of this Grand Chapter, be, and he is hereby, expelled from the rights and benefits of Royal Arch Masonry."

Our venerable friend and Companion, J. Eastman Johnson, presented a capital report on Foreign Correspondence, in which he devotes nine pages to the District of Columbia.

As Michigan voted not to recognize our Grand Chapter in its days of trouble, we have sent some hot shot into that quarter. Last year, when she recognized us, we buried the hatchet, and now Companion Johnson wants us to "keep that hatchet buried." Keep cool, dear Companion, its resurrection is simply impossible.

MISSISSIPPI.

The Twenty-third Annual Convocation was held in Vicksburg, January 20, 1871, with a representation of sixty-eight of the ninety-eight chapters on the roll. The proceedings are handsomely printed, and a cheerful look of prosperity seems to show itself on the pages.

Grand High Priest Robert B. Mayes delivered an excellent address, from which we extract the following, on the subject of physical disqualifications :

"I had occasion twice to decide that—the rule that 'an individual without the use of hands, arms or feet, is not capable of being instructed in the degree of Royal Arch Mason,' having been stricken from the Permanent Rules and Regulations—by the vote of the Grand Chapter in 1867 (Proceedings, p. 14) the Chapters have the authority of the Grand Chapter for advancing maimed brothers who are deemed otherwise worthy and well qualified. As to the propriety of conferring the degree in such cases, I expressed a doubt in my first letter on this subject. My opinion, however, has gradually undergone a change. We should be careful to prevent those who are physically disqualified from being made Masons; but when they become our brothers we should not let a subsequent misfortune debar them from any Masonic privilege or promotion."

His sound doctrines above expressed on those Masons so unfortunate as to be maimed, is succeeded by the following good thing about substitutes:

"A solemn promise is made by every High Priest, before his installation, 'that he will never suffer his Chapter to be opened unless there be

present nine regular Royal Arch Masons.' Of this you approve. But, in the next breath, the High Priest-elect promises 'that he will never suffer either more or less than three brethren to be exalted in his Chapter at one and the same time.' These promises stand on the same footing in the installation ceremony, and harmonize equally with the Royal Arch ritual and lecture, which impose the like obligations on every Royal Arch Mason. What is there in 'the symbolic and figurative character' of Masonry which discharges a Royal Arch Mason from one of these obligations rather than the other? If any emergency justifies the violation of the second, why may not the first be disregarded in an equal emergency? Why not surmount the difficulty of getting quorums of nine by reducing the quorum to a smaller number, if we may, with propriety, obviate the difficulty of getting a class of three for exaltation, by reducing the class to a smaller number? And when four or five are ready for exaltation, but two classes cannot be filled, why not form the class of four or five, if it may be reduced to less than three in any case?

"Substitutes in exaltation are mere lay figures. When one is employed only two brothers are really exalted; when two are employed, there is but one exaltation. And to me it seems more rational to exalt two, or one, without substitutes, than to evade a Masonic obligation by filling a class with persons on whom the degree cannot be conferred.

"In fine, I think it obvious that the restriction of classes for exaltation to three, like the requirement of nine in opening, is an unwritten landmark; and that, if the Grand Chapter had been silent on the subject, no High Priest could properly permit, no Royal Arch Mason familiar with the ritual and lecture sanction by his presence, the exaltation of a greater or less number than three at one and the same time. The tendency of your arguments, from the condition of country Chapters, is to prove that Chapters are multiplied too rapidly, rather than to establish that the rules relative to classes for exaltation, and to calling off, should be relaxed for the convenience of Chapters whose members are few, or neglectful of the stated Communications."

The report on Foreign Correspondence was submitted as usual by its able and accomplished chairman, Companion William S. Patton, who reviewed in his inimitable way the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Chapters.

The Grand Chapter paid him \$100 for his report, as all Grand Chapters should do with their committees, instead of requiring such "good work and true work" to go unpaid.

His review of our proceedings is fraternal and complimentary. We hope some day to stand on the soil of Mississippi, as we did in years gone by, and grasp that hand of Companion Patton which he tenders in such a true and Masonic spirit. Until then we shall have to be satisfied with gazing on his photograph he so kindly sent us.

As we want every Royal Arch Mason to be familiar with *Masonic dates*, we copy the valuable table from these proceedings given below:

MASONIC CALENDAR.

ANCIENT CRAFT MASONS commence their era with the Creation of the World, calling it **Anno Lucis* (A. . L. .) "in the year of Light."

SCOTCH RITE, same as Ancient Craft, except the Jewish Chronology is used, *Anno Mundi* (A. . M. .) "in the year of the World."

* Not claimed to be coeval with the Creation, but has symbolic reference to the Light of Masonry.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS date from the year the second Temple was commenced by Zerubba bel, *Anno Inventonis* (A. . Inv. .) "in the year of the Discovery."

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS date from the year in which the Temple of Solomon was completed, *Anno Depositionis*, (A. . Dep. .) "in the year of the Deposit."

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR commence their era with the organization of their Order, *Anno Ordonis* (A. . O. .) "in the year of the Order."

RULES FOR MASONIC DATES.

1. ANCIENT CRAFT—Add 4000 years to the common time. Thus: 1871 and 4000—5871.

2. SCOTCH RITE—Add 3760 to the common era. Thus: 1871 and 3760—5631.

After September add another year.

3. ROYAL ARCH—Add 530 years to the vulgar era. Thus: 1871 and 530—2401.

4. ROYAL AND SELECT MASONS—Add 1000 to the common time. Thus: 1871 and 1000—2871.

5. KNIGHTS TEMPLAR—From the Christian era take 1118. Thus: 1118 from 1871—753.

THE PRESENT :

Year of the Lord, A. D.	1871—Christian Era.
Year of the Light, A. . L. .	5871—Ancient Craft.
Year of the World, A. . M. .	5631—Scotch Rite.
Year of the Discovery, A. . Inv. .	2401—Royal Arch.
Year of the Deposit, A. . Dep. .	2871—Royal and Select Masters.
Year of the Order, A. . O. .	753—Knights Templar.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Quarterly Convocations were held in March, September and June, and the annual in December.

Grand High Priest Henry Chickering delivered at the Annual Convocation the finest address we ever heard, and it is printed in the proceedings, covering eleven pages.

We had intended to copy some portions of it, but it is all so good that we don't know where to begin or where to end. To show Grand High Priests in other jurisdictions who "wear the honors" and do nothing, what the G. H. P. of Massachusetts did in one year, let us begin by saying that he travelled several times all over the State and visited *forty-eight Chapters himself!* There was but one Chapter in the State he did not visit, and this rejoiced in the name of King Solomon, and had as many places of meeting as Solomon had wives. He pursued it into three different towns, but never captured it alive and in session. He also constituted several new Chapters with public ceremonies, and performed a vast amount of other labor.

If Massachusetts does not award to Henry Chickering the honor of being the most zealous and hard working G. H. P. she ever had, then we think she will not bestow honors where they properly belong.

In the forty-eight chartered Chapters there were 690 exaltations, and 6,145 members.

They have a way, and a queer one, of doing the business of the Chapter on *any* degree, which he condemns, and asks that such business be transacted only on the Royal Arch Degree. Very sensible.

He makes other recommendations of great value, but it is of no more use to try to get them to change anything in any of the Grand Bodies of Massachusetts than it would be to ask an Egyptian mummy to adopt chignons and waterfalls, with the new "Boston dip." Everything must remain exactly as it was when Joseph Warren fell down on Bunker Hill. We think Mr. Warren was then "Keeper of the Holy Water" in St. Andrew's Chapter, and favored the use of substitutes, same as he did soon after in the Revolutionary war, and ever since then all R. A. Masons in Massachusetts have favored substitutes in conferring the R. A. Degree. Substitutes were very popular in the late war, but now that there is no prospect of a codfish war with England, we hope this good old Commonwealth will stop using substitutes. Let us have a rest.

The report on Foreign Correspondence comes again from the Sage of Winthrop, Comp. John W. Dadmun. It is one of his very best, and made while his stomach was full and his head was clear, and there was no camp-meeting within four miles.

Our Reverend Companion knows so well when to mix his smiles with his dignity, that we are at a loss sometimes which to call for, smiles or dignity. We commence dreaming about him every year some three weeks before his report arrives, *then* take regular readings to aid digestion, and prescribe the same to patients. It beats condurango, and has as many different results on the patients.

His review of our Grand Chapter is fraternal and very courteous. His compliments to the author of this report made him blush and hide his head like an ostrich in the sand, or like mermaids on the coast of "*Dear Island.*" We close with his salutatory to our Companions :

"All hail, Companions of the District of Columbia! You have passed through the fiery furnace, and have come out without so much as the 'smell of fire on your garments.'"

"Thanks to an all-wise Providence, the storm has passed; fraternal intercourse is restored with all parties, and remarkable prosperity is now enjoyed by our Companions of the District of Columbia."

MARYLAND.

We welcome the proceedings before us of our twin-sister with a smile of Masonic joy. They come freighted with so much intelligence of a local character, that they seem to be an auxiliary to our own proceedings. From the mourning page that commemorates the virtues of our late Grand High Priest, B. B. French, to the names of the members of the different Chapters, also familiar to us, there is a local interest pervading the proceedings which is hard to describe. So many Companions in this city desire to refer to the proceedings of Maryland, and we have lent

our copy so much, that it looks now like the spelling-book owned by the youngest boy in school.

The Annual Convocation was held at Baltimore, November 14, 1870.

Grand High Priest Ohr was detained at home by an unfortunate accident to him, and his address was read by D. G. H. P. Edw. T. Schultz. He pays a tribute of respect to the memory of our late G. H. P., B. B. French, who was also a Past Grand High Priest of Maryland, while their jurisdiction and ours were united. He gives a good account of Capitular Masonry in the State, and regrets that he was obliged to omit his intended visit to various Chapters on account of his unfortunate accident, that compelled him to spend his time in an invalid's chair.

At a Resumed Convocation, held November 15, the following report was adopted :

"The committee appointed to consider the propriety of separating the Council degrees from the Chapter work, respectfully recommend that no action be taken at this Convocation of the Grand Chapter tending toward a separation of the Council degrees from the other work of the Chapter."

We regret that this committee entered a *nolle prosequi* in this case. It would have been better to have struck out the Council degrees as we did here when we formed our Grand Chapter. Maryland will do it, sooner or later, in order to conform to the work in all the other States. We have been informed that no subordinate Chapter in Maryland has now, and never had in their Charters, authority to confer the Select and Royal degrees. The Grand Chapter of Maryland never having given its subordinates any authority to confer such degrees *in their charters*, how can the subordinates sandwich these degrees between the Most Excellent and Royal Arch, any more than they could take the Red Cross, or Knights of Malta, or some other orphan degrees and put them there ?

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Companion H. L. Emmons, jr., and embraces a review of thirty-six Grand Chapters, including ours for 1869. He copies all those parts of the proceedings and correspondence between our Grand Chapter and Potomac Chapter, in regard to the settlement of the pending difficulties, and seems satisfied with the result. He copies the most of our "Supplemental Report" on Maryland, and gives the portions where the writer puts forth in glowing words and fraternal feeling the greeting from this Grand Chapter in the kindest manner, and to all this he replies : "We have a modicum of faith in the sincerity of the foregoing effusion." Is it hardly fair, Companion Emmons, to doubt the sincerity of Royal Arch Masons ? As we registered a vow two years ago that none but kind words should ever be said of Maryland Companions, we will not reply to some other paragraphs in this report. We have already begun to see how much we can love one another. We shall try to merit their friendship and esteem, and if hard words come in exchange, we shall never notice them.

In his review of Massachusetts, Comp. Emmons says :

"Prejudice is so far wiped out in Massachusetts, that when a man is

'free born, of good report, and well recommended,' neither color or race is a bar to his Masonic progress, as witness the following from Companion Dadmun's report:

"Bro. J. B. Smith, the celebrated colored caterer of Boston, made application to St. Andrew's lodge for the degrees a little over two years ago, and, without any opposition or unusual delay, was accepted and made a Mason in due and ancient form. Since that he has received the Chapter degrees in St. Matthew's R. A. Chapter, and the Orders of Knighthood in St. Omer Commandery. He is a *man, free born, of good report, and well recommended.*"

MISSOURI.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Convocation was held at St. Louis, October 5, 1870.

Grand High Priest Jno. F. Houston delivered a long address, taking high moral ground in reference to the character of all Masons, and dwelling with great length on many of the common vices of life.

He makes also a labored argument in favor of using substitutes, but seems to prove nothing except that their use is a great convenience.

A memorial page is inscribed to our late lamented frater, BENJAMIN BROWN FRENCH, who was Grand Representative of Missouri, near this Grand Chapter.

Comp. Geo. Frank Gonley presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing thirty-two Grand Chapters. As usual, he does not review or acknowledge the receipt of our proceedings.

In the conclusion of his report he pays the following tribute to one we all loved :

"The past year has not been without its harvest time of death ; that harvest which furnishes the full, ripe ears to the granary of the blessed. Comp. BENJAMIN BROWN FRENCH, Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia, and Representative of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, now represents us within that veil where the spirits of the pure, the good, and the true seek shelter from the turmoils and vicissitudes of earth. On the 12th of August last, he breathed the last of human life—he caught the breath of life eternal, and as a memento of the works he left behind him as our Masonic heritage, and not as a mourning page of those who sorrow for those who sorrow not, we offer the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That a page be set apart in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, to commemorate the virtues of Comp. BENJAMIN BROWN FRENCH, late Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia, and Representative of the Grand Chapter of Missouri."

NEBRASKA.

The Fourth Annual Convocation was held at Plattsmouth, June 20, 1870, with a representation of four Chapters. There seem to be five Chapters chartered and two under dispensation in this young and growing State.

Grand High Priest Jordan had removed from the State, and Deputy Grand High Priest Allen had officiated during the year. He delivered a good address, filled with interesting local matters. A system of representation from other Grand Chapters was adopted.

Companion Furnas reported that he had received proceedings of twenty Grand Chapters, ours included, for 1869, and wanted more time to complete the report, and publish the same with proceedings, which was granted, but no report is printed with the copy of the proceedings we have received. Send it along, Comp. Furnas. We ought to have received the proceedings of the Fifth Annual Convocation held in June, 1871, but up to November, 1871, none have been received.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Fifty-third Annual Convocation was held at Concord, May 16, 1871, representatives from thirteen Chapters reporting.

The proceedings are printed on such beautiful paper and faultless type, that other Grand Chapters would do well to take this copy as a sample for their printers.

The zealous and devoted John A. Harris, Grand High Priest, delivered an historical address of great value respecting the early history of Capitular Masonry in the "old Granite State."

He says in his address:

"So carefully were the foundations of the Royal Arch bodies of New Hampshire laid at their origin, so cautious and discreet has been the course of the several Chapters, that during the long period of sixty-four years, the time which has elapsed since Chapters were first organized in this State, dissensions have been unknown.

"We have cause for gratitude to the Supreme Ruler that this Grand Chapter has been able to preserve, amid the vicissitudes of time, an unbroken existence for more than half a century; that so many illustrious Masons, distinguished for their knowledge of the Royal Art, and for their practice of the pure and sublime teachings of Masonry, have been connected with this Grand Body."

In sixty-four years no dissensions were ever known in a Chapter in New Hampshire. How glad the writer feels that he was exalted in one of these peaceful, heaven-like Chapters, and there learned to be as calm as a summer's sky, as docile as a kitten, as solemn as an owl, and as tender as a "three shilling shirt." Oh, how glad!

The report on Foreign Correspondence was made by Comp. Joseph W. Fellows, and like everything from his pen, is first-rate. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-eight Grand Chapters, ours for last year included. It is a very substantial feast, and is too short; that is the only fault, and is where the joke comes in.

He speaks in various places about the report of his predecessor, Comp. John J. Bell, on the Grand Chapter of Delaware.

Does he know that Comp. Bell took all the facts and data from our report for 1869, and without credit palmed it off as his little history of our Delaware "onpleasantness?"

Comp. Fellows pays the following just tribute to our eminent Companion of England, Wm. James Hughan, and like so many other Masonic scholars and thinkers, ranks him as the best old England affords:

"Comp. J. E. Mason submitted the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is the fullest and contains the most matter of any we have found. Indeed, there is so much of interest and value that we do not know what particular portion to name.

"Comp. Mason never would have done the work he has in this, or even in other departments of 'Masonic service,' if he were not in earnest in his connection with the craft.

"We cannot pass through this review without calling attention to the very valuable paper prepared, at Comp. Mason's request, by Comp. William James Hughan, of Truro, England, upon Capitular Freemasonry in England, Scotland, and Ireland. Comp. Hughan is one of the most accomplished Masonic writers in the world, and has contributed much to the education and enlightenment of the fraternity, and he has conferred a great favor upon the Order by the preparation of this article."

NEW JERSEY.

After the completion of this report, two days before the Annual Convocation of our Grand Chapter, we received the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey.

The Annual Convocation was held at Trenton, September 13, 1871, twenty-one Chapters being represented.

Twenty-six Chapters appear on the roll, with a summary of the number of Royal Arch Masons in the State, numbering 2,233.

Grand High Priest Higginbotham delivered a long address covering nearly eight closely printed pages. Life is too short and time is too precious to read it.

The names of all the members in all the Chapters in the State are printed. There is nothing else in the proceedings worth noticing.

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-fourth Annual Convocation was held at Albany, February 7, 8, and 9, 1871, with representatives from one hundred and sixty-one of her two hundred and fifty-eight Chapters.

Grand High Priest John W. Simons delivered an address that covers nine pages. It is very good, aside from its frantic appeals in behalf of the General Grand Chapter, which are quite amusing.

He shows to the satisfaction of himself that Capitular Masonry in the United States would go to the tomb of the Capulets in a few days if the General Grand Chapter should burst up. It is now what moves the world on its axes, and if a sedative should be applied to it, away we would go, tumbling into eternity.

Without this wonderful governing power, he thinks some bad genii would step in, and control the craft, by which we suppose he means the Tammany Ring.

It is not wonderful how ten times as many Blue Lodges as there are Chapters in the United States ever got along without a General Grand Lodge. Hear him state the question :

"During the present year the General Grand Chapter of the United States will hold its Triennial Convocation at the city of Baltimore, and as

one of its constituent members, this Grand Chapter will, of course, be adequately represented. Judging by the tone of the addresses and reports in the transactions of some of the Grand Chapters, there can be little doubt of a concerted intention to destroy the organization, and with it the unity and national character of Royal Arch Masonry. Some complain that the General Grand Chapter is arrogant, and seeking to deprive the State Grand Chapters of their individual rights and prerogatives, but they do not deem it essential to their argument to cite any instance in which the National Body has ever attempted to interfere with the proceedings of States, except to promote peace and maintain regular proceedings among the craft. Others again assert that the General Body is shorn of all power, and unable to enforce any edict should one become necessary, forgetting that in more than one instance those who make the loudest outcry in this direction have most persistently voted against such amendments to the Constitution as would give the General Grand Chapter the powers they declare it ought to have, and for the lack of which they seek to destroy it. It is impossible that both classes should be satisfied, but it is very evident that neither cares to be ; that while shouting different war-cries they are really bending their energies in the same direction, and serving the greed for change, even though to accomplish it they should pull out the pillars and bring down the Temple about their heads."

NORTH CAROLINA.

Since our last annual report we have received the proceedings of the twenty-second Annual Convocation, held at Wilmington, November 30, 1870, with only fifteen of her forty-five Chapters being represented. Grand High Priest Murdoch presented an address showing that he had been actively at work for the craft during the year. Very little business was transacted. There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

We have received also the proceedings of the twenty-third Annual Convocation, which was held at Wilmington, June 5, 1871. Only twelve Chapters were represented. Grand High Priest Murdoch read a good address.

Comp. John Nichols presented a brief report on Foreign Correspondence, but did not review the District of Columbia, because he received no copy of our proceedings. Another singular and unaccountable circumstance.

OHIO.

We have received the proceedings of this Grand Chapter too late to review them. The fifty-fifth Annual Convocation was held at Sandusky September 26-28th, 1871.

Grand High Priest Charles C. Kiefer delivered one of the best addresses we ever read. If space allowed a large part of it should be copied. A single mistake occurs in it, where he says, "every State Grand Chapter, with the exception of Pennsylvania and Virginia, are now in allegiance with this General Grand Body (G. G. Chapter) and delegates were in attendance from every G. Chapter except Alabama and Oregon." Visiting Companions were present from Kentucky, Rhode Island, Georgia and

Texas, but not as delegates. Eight Grand Chapters had no accredited delegates there, and refuse to recognize the General Grand Chapter.

Comp. O'Neal presented a report on Foreign Correspondence, but had received no proceedings from the District of Columbia to review.

The Committee on Jurisprudence made the following capital report :

"Comp. E. T. Carson, from Standing Committee, submitted and read the following report, which was agreed to, viz :

"The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the resolution in regard to the conferring of the Chapter Degrees on maimed candidates, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following amended resolution, and recommend its adoption :

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this G. Chapter, a Master Mason who has become maimed in person is not thereby absolutely physically disqualified for receiving the degrees conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter, but the degree of injury or maiming that shall constitute physical disqualification for the receiving of degrees shall be left, as the moral and other necessary qualifications are, with the several subordinate Chapters.

"*Resolved*, That the resolution No. 3, on page 102, of the printed proceedings of 1868, be and the same is hereby repealed.

"The resolution referred to reads as follows, viz : 'A Master Mason, who has lost an arm or leg, hand or foot, is not a proper candidate for the Chapter Degrees.'"

OREGON.

The eleventh Annual Convocation was held at Salem, June 16, 1871, representatives from five Chapters being present ;

Grand High Priest James R. Boyley delivered an address, giving a narrative of his official conduct. He appointed our late Grand High Priest B. B. French as Grand Representative near our Grand Chapter, but subsequently learning of his death, he sent a commission to our distinguished Companion, Albert Pike.

No fitter man could have been chosen either to fill the place made vacant by our beloved frater, or one the Companions in this District would delight to honor.

A very able report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Companion T. McF. Patton, but, we are sorry to say, there is no review of the District of Columbia, because they did not get our proceedings.

We cannot understand why they were not received. He gives the following sweet kiss to the General Grand Chapter of the United States :

"From the opinions expressed in the various Reports on Correspondence and Grand High Priests' addresses, we learn that this General Grand Body is liable to be dissolved. Your committee dislike very much to express an opinion either for or against an institution when we know so little about it. This may appear to many as a case of wilful ignorance, but we will venture the assertion that not one in twenty in this jurisdiction has ever seen or read a word emanating from this distinguished body, published by themselves. Their light has never reached this far-off land. Their whole energies appear to have been expended on those who have exhibited symptoms of uneasiness and expressed a desire to be released ; or, in other words, have shown a disposition to *secede*. During the eleven years of our existence as a Grand Chapter we have been treated with indifference. What information we have acquired concerning their acts

has been from outside sources and not from any of their authenticated proceedings.

"In view of this cold treatment on the part of those distinguished Companions towards us, our love for this General Grand Body has grown correspondingly cold, and judging the future by the past, we are inclined to the opinion that it does not require our sympathy or co-operation in any way or manner."

PENNSYLVANIA.

We have received an "abstract of the proceedings of the Most Excellent Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging," which we suppose means New Jersey and other foreign countries. This ancient Grand Chapter claims a sort of pre-adamite or antediluvian record among other Grand Chapters, and really has a crust about it, hard enough to have been formed during the silurian age.

It publishes in its proceedings some accounts of the Treasurer annually, and has a Finance Committee that makes a quarterly report, about as dry as a Quaker bonnet, and this is about all ever given to the public. They have a crazy idea in Pennsylvania that nothing should be published at all about Masonry. Their reason is about as lucid as that of the North Carolina sand-hiller, that education should be punished because "spellin' books is pizen."

Some light is breaking into this darkness, however, and the report for 1870, before us, has more matter in it than its predecessors.

They have just heard in Pennsylvania that a Grand Chapter has been formed in the District of Columbia, and, strange as it may seem, at the Quarterly Convocation, May 5th, passed the following resolution :

"Whereas, All difficulties having been settled within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapters of *Maryland* and the *District of Columbia*, and the Grand Chapter of the *District of Columbia* having become established and duly constituted as a separate Grand Chapter under that name ; therefore,

"Resolved, That the said *Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia* be, and hereby is, so recognized and greeted with a welcome by this Grand Chapter."

This antediluvian Grand Chapter has condescended to recognize us after we got to be four years old, and still we are not happy. The "welcome" referred to above, comes further along, in the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, where the Companion who offered this resolution snaps and snarls at the District of Columbia with canine ferocity. He also recognizes the new Grand Chapter of Nebraska, and welcomes it to "the *confraternity* of our sister Grand Chapters," whatever that may mean.

Those who have not probed the depths of Pennsylvania Masonry will be interested in the following :

"The Grand Chapter, by the Constitution of 1863, is composed of such members of the Grand Lodge as are Royal Arch Masons, and *actual* Past Masters, and are contributing members of a subordinate Chapter and all Past Grand High Priests. It has power to issue warrants for Chapters and lodges of Most Excellent or Mark Masters, but a warrant for a Chapter includes the authority to hold those lodges. The Grand Chapter has no

jurisdiction over the degree of Past Master, and the Chapters do not confer it, as we understand the matter. In 1824, it was provided no brother should be exalted 'without his having previously become a Past Master, Mark Master, and Most Excellent Master.' Under the present Constitution, an applicant for the Mark degree must be a Master Mason; an applicant for the Most Excellent Master's degree must be a Master Mason, and must have 'duly passed the chair in some regular lodge.' The Constitution of the Grand Lodge provides that 'no brother, unless duly elected Master of a lodge, can pass the chair without a dispensation legally issued.' Accordingly, the Grand Master, for a fee of ten dollars, which goes to the Grand Lodge, issues 'dispensations to pass the chair,' to the number of hundreds every year. The chair 'is passed' by the applicant in his lodge. Who are present or whether he pays an additional sum to the lodge, we cannot tell. We presume, however, only Past Masters are present; we presume, also, that such dispensations are issued only to Mark Masters, and upon their petitions as such; but of this we have no certain knowledge.

"Chapters are represented only by a proxy to a member of this Grand Chapter, (but no member can be a proxy for more than one Chapter at the same time,) except as their own members happen to be members of the Grand Chapter; but that cannot be opened unless three Chapters are represented by the members of the Grand Chapter 'severally belonging to such Chapters.'

"The dues to the Grand Chapter are fifty per cent. higher in Philadelphia than elsewhere. Warrants for Chapters are granted to *six* Companions; no Chapter, lodge or Companion is allowed to publish any matter regarding Royal Arch Masonry without consent of the Grand Chapter, or Grand High Priest; the Royal Arch degree cannot be conferred on a greater or less number than three, at the same time; suspension or expulsion in lower body, (including Blue Lodge,) carries the same effect with it in a higher body, and *vice versa*, except as to Blue Lodge; no one can be a member of a Chapter for more than six months after he shall have ceased to be a member of a Blue Lodge, by resignation. No procession or public display of a Chapter, &c., is allowed; nor is any one allowed to wear Royal Arch clothing, &c., anywhere save in a Chapter."

The isolated position which Pennsylvania persists in maintaining in Symbolic, Capitular, and Cryptic Masonry, excites the regrets of the whole Masonic world. No other State has such work, and still she persists that she is right, and all the other States are wrong. This conceit is getting to be intolerable, and almost every writer on Foreign Correspondence is holding her up to the light.

And this we take from the report on correspondence from Iowa:

"Pennsylvania Royal Arch Masonry is an anomaly. It differs largely, if not essentially, from that of the rest of the United States. The members are large-hearted, whole-souled men, fully imbued with the spirit of Masonry. But yet, as a body, they are exclusive, seeming to think that Pennsylvania Masonry is perfect, and everything differing from them is wrong; but they keep it to themselves in its perfection, and allow everybody else to do the same."

Comp. George Griscom presented a very poor apology for a report on Foreign Correspondence, which may please that Grand Chapter, but would not any other.

His bitterness and unmasonic language make the report a positive dis-

grace and after pitching into everybody who may disagree with him, he winds up the report with the following choice bit of conceit :

"*First*. Those of the discussions which relate to the landmarks of Masonry are not fit subjects for a public report, and are, therefore, not expedient ; and, *secondly*, those which criticise the civil polity or literary style prevailing in sister jurisdictions are not within the range of our legitimate business, and therefore we think an interference on our part is uncalled for, and would be altogether useless and unprofitable."

Mr. Pecksniff himself could not do better than this under the circumstances.

RHODE ISLAND.

The seventy-third Annual Convocation was held at Providence, March 14, 1871. Grand High Priest Thos. A. Doyle gave an address that was short, sensible, and good. He does not advise his Grand Chapter to put her neck into yoke under the General Grand Chapter, but send him there as an observer. We met him there, the observed of all observers, with a few friends of the General Grand Chapter, trying to "rope him in," but he "could'n't see it," and declined to look on, except as a spectator. His Grand Chapter does not recognize the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and never intends to do so.

The proceedings are very handsomely printed, and everything about them shows the thrift that pervades Capitular Masonry in Rhode Island.

Comp. Geo. H. Barnham presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, and it seems just like his own rosy face, filled with good cheer and humor.

He reviews with great care and keen discrimination, and evidently don't belong to any "Mutual Admiration Society." His notice of our Grand Chapter, and the labors of the writer, are kind and fraternal.

SCOTLAND.

We have received "The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland's Reporter" for 1871, which is No. 1 of volume II, and was issued in March, 1871.

On the concluding page, 38, Grand Scribe Ezra L. Mackersy says, in his annual report :

"During the year ending 13th March, 1871, five new charters have been granted to Chapters—two warrants to Mark Master Lodges. A Provincial Grand Superintendent has been appointed in Bombay, and representatives have been exchanged with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, U. S."

The roll of Chapters number one hundred and thirty-eight, and are located in all parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and islands scattered all over the globe. There are also twelve Mark Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and thirteen are carried out on the roll as dormant.

Two Chapters are two years in arrears of returns, and twenty-five ten years and upward in arrears, and considered dormant, some of them running back as far as 1817.

Six Chapters have surrendered their charters—among them, St. Andrew's, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where a new Grand Chapter has been formed.

The Right Honorable the Earl of Rosslyn is First Grand Principal; the Right Honorable the Earl of Dalhousie Past First Grand Principal; the Honorable Lord Erskine, Second Grand Principal, and Lindsay Mackersy W. S. Grand Scribe Ezra.

There are eighteen officers in all in the Grand Chapter, beside Past First Principals, Provincial Grand Superintendents and Representative members.

The abstract of accounts show seventeen hundred and forty pounds sterling to have been paid in fees and dues to the Grand Chapter.

At the "quarterly meeting," on the 21st of September, 1870, the committee reported in favor of the appointment of Companion Noble Danforth Larner as representative of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and directed his commission "to be *expede* in usual form," whatever that may mean. Also, the request for the appointment was made of Companion William Hay to be representative of that Supreme Grand Body to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

The pleasure derived by an exchange of representatives will be mutual between our Grand Chapter and this ancient Grand Body in "Auld Scotia." We hail this cementing of fraternal ties between the mother country of Capitular Masonry, as practiced in this country, and the National Capital of America, as the inauguration of an era of good-fellowship in Masonry.

Much of the "Abstract of Proceedings" seem to be occupied by votes and discussions concerning the sending of representatives to a Convention to be held in London, to take action concerning the recognition of the "Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown."

The Grand Chapter of Scotland seems to have adopted the Mark degree, and now England is discussing the question of adopting it. The degree has not been prosperous in separate Mark Lodges, and seems to be an orphan without parentage, and asking a home and shelter somewhere, and the quicker England and Ireland conform to the custom in Scotland and the United States, the better it will be for the uniformity of Capitular Masonry throughout the globe.

We understand that a conference has been held in London the past year to take action respecting this "Grand Lodge of Mark Masters," but we have not heard the result of its deliberations. Representatives were present from the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, and also from the Grand Chapters of England, Ireland and Scotland. We hope that unity of action characterized the proceedings.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The proceedings came to hand dressed in a coffee-colored cover, that looks as though it had been dug out of the Red Sea after Pharaoh's host had passed over. But the printing of the pamphlet is not so bad.

The Annual Convocation was held at Charleston, February 14, 1871, with a good representation present from various Chapters.

G. H. P. Montgomery Moses made a good address, which we have marked for extracts in various places, but for want of room must omit them. Much business was transacted, entirely of a local character.

Comp. James Birnie submitted the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters in an able and acceptable manner.

There were a number of committees that reported on various subjects only of local interest.

TENNESSEE.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held at Nashville, November 9, 1870, fifty-eight of the seventy-eight Chapters being represented, and also six under dispensation. Two of those under dispensation rejoice in the names of "Uncle Jack" and "Big Bottom." They have also a "White Oak" Chapter, but no "Black Jack" or "Little Breeches."

G. H. P. John W. Hughes delivered a short and sensible address. He shows the difficulties Masons labor under in finding shelter for their Chapters in a new country, in the following :

"At your last Communication, a dispensation was granted to a constitutional number of Companions to form a new Chapter, to be called 'White Oak, No. 90,' to be located at Bethlehem, Stewart county. Finding that the petitioners were not *bona fide* residents, living within the jurisdiction of the proposed new Chapter, and finding that they had not a suitable hall in which to meet, (the proposed place of meeting being in a log house, without ceiling or weather-boarding,) after consultation with the D. G. H. P., K., and Scribe, and the Committee on Dispensations, I felt satisfied that the institution of said new Chapter would not be promotive of the interests of R. A. Masonry. Accordingly, I directed the Grand Secretary not to issue said dispensation."

The Committee on Appeals submitted the following report, which was adopted :

"The Committee on Appeals, to whom the papers in the case of the appeal of W. S. Matthews from the decision of the H. P. of Memphis Chapter No. 95, in appointing two new members on a petition for membership, and receiving their report the same evening, and then proceeding to hold a ballot, and in spite of the protest of a Companion, the H. P. declaring the candidate duly elected, have carefully examined the papers, and beg leave to report that they are of the opinion that the H. P. erred in appointing new members on said petition, and receiving their report the same evening, as not being the time necessary for investigation. He further erred in holding the ballot upon the candidate, a Companion protesting against it, as he had a right to do from the spirit of Edict No. 18 in proceedings of Grand Chapter of 1869. We therefore recommend that the appeal be sustained, and the proceedings electing the applicant be declared null and void."

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted the following resolution, with majority and minority reports :

"The majority of the Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom the following resolution was referred, recommend its passage—

"*Resolved*, That the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Grand Chapter forbidding the employment of substitutes in conferring the Royal Arch degree be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and the use of substitutes, when necessary to confer the Royal Arch degree, is hereby permitted.

T. A. THOMAS.
JAMES McCALLUM.
A. J. WHEELER.

"We, the undersigned, cannot concur in the report of the majority of the Committee on Jurisprudence relative to substitutes, and recommend a strict enforcement of the present regulation upon the subject.

D. R. GRAFTON.
ROBT. I. CHESTER.

"On motion of Companion Flood, the report of the minority was adopted."

Tennessee has put herself square on the record against the use of substitutes. We rejoice over the fact, because there is actually more talent displayed among the Masons of this State, than those abroad will generally concede. We regard the Masons of Tennessee as second to no other State in intelligence, zeal and learning.

When the celebrated "half and half" resolutions on substitutes came before the General Grand Chapter at Baltimore, Grand High Priest Armstrong and Grand Secretary Frizzell made the most convincing and eloquent speeches against their use we heard made in that Grand Body, on that or any other subject. We wish every R. A. Mason in the United States could have heard them.

As only about one hundred of the nine hundred Royal Arch Masons in the District of Columbia have complied with their obligations and recorded their marks in their Chapter Book of Marks, the following is specially commended to their notice as showing the way they do things elsewhere. It is cut from the "Rules and Regulations" of the Grand Chapter, which are similar to our "standing resolutions :"

"21. That every Mark Master attached to a Chapter within this jurisdiction must, within six months after his admission, select his mark and record the same in a Book of Marks, kept by the Chapter for that purpose; and it is made the special duty of the Secretary of each Chapter to see that this regulation is complied with."

Comp. George S. Blackie presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing both ably and fraternally the proceedings of thirty-seven Grand Chapters, including ours for 1869. He says :

"Companion J. E. Mason gave a very complete and fraternal report of thirty-three Grand Chapters, including Tennessee for 1868. The committee has been trying for several years to get exchange of proceedings with Scotland, but those touchy fellows over there won't answer their letters. We feel rather annoyed that the Scottish Grand Bodies, by their reserve, continue to give so much dissatisfaction. We fear they carry their dignified silence into incivility. Let our Columbia Companions get one of

those Scottish Masons who annually visit the Republican Court to write a letter for them, and vouch for them, and they will soon accomplish the end of their ambition. We found no difficulty."

And we found no difficulty either. We are in fraternal correspondence with Scotland, with representatives exchanged, and we did not get any body to vouch for us or write any letter, as suggested above.

VERMONT.

The Annual Convocation was held at Burlington, June 16, 1871, twenty-one of her twenty-four Chapters being represented.

Grand High Priest E. A. Jewett delivered a long and interesting address, principally occupied in trying to present some data and reasons for getting Vermont to put her neck into the yoke again under the General Grand Chapter, and he succeeded.

Vermont has a queer way of doing things. One year they will "resolute" that the G. G. Chapter is a humbug, and they pop into the water and come up in a new place, having dived deeper, stayed longer, and come up fresher than any other swimmers in the ring.

The very next year they return to the General Grand Chapter, wiping their eyes, and ask the paternal Pecksniff to be allowed to take a whipping, and be hung up in the corner to dry.

And thus Vermont keeps bobbing in and out, until we are at a loss to know which side of the fence to find her. Two years ago the following rung out in clarion notes from Vermont :

"The Committee on Relations of Vermont Grand Chapter with General Grand Chapter made the following report through Companion E. S. Dana :
"To the M. E. Grand Chapter now in session :

"The committee appointed at the last session of this Grand Chapter, to consider the subject of our status with the General Grand Chapter, respectfully report : That they have had the subject under consideration, and would recommend that our Grand Chapter reaffirm the action of 1860—withdrawal of allegiance from the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"After full consideration, this Grand Chapter withdrew from the General Grand Chapter in 1860, and this course was approved and endorsed by P. G. High Priests Tucker, Campbell, Davenport, Washburn, and other eminent members of the craft. Subsequently, in the Grand Chapter, we find that eleven Grand Chapters in the United States refuse allegiance to the General Grand Body, and that several others seem dissatisfied with it, and will undoubtedly soon withdraw from it.

"Bereft, as it is apparently, of all power for good, or of enforcing any of its regulations, it seems now little more than a triennial levee for social interchange of feeling. This, of course, makes it a pleasant re-union, but it should hardly be dignified by so commanding a title as the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

This year Grand High Priest Jewett devotes four pages of his address in trying to excuse away this action, and gets their necks into the yoke again. He gives a queer reason why Vermont went out in 1860, as follows :

"It is well understood that the real reason behind, and paramount to everything else, for the action of this Grand Chapter in 1860, was dissatisfaction (I say it with all due respect) on the part of *some* of the

members of that General Grand Body with the result of the election of its officers."

In reply to this, a prominent Mason in Vermont writes: "*A very high officer of our Grand Chapter got our Grand Chapter back under the General Grand Chapter, and went to Baltimore expecting to get an office, but didn't, and now I'll bet a peck of white beans he'll oppose the General Grand Chapter next year, and want us to get out of it.*"

Grand High Priest Jewett concludes as follows:

"Allowing that the General Grand Chapter has not accomplished all that its founders hoped, was it wise, was it Masonic for one of its subordinates to rebel and assume that a part is greater than the whole; to arrogate to itself more wisdom and better judgment than the majority? It seems to me not.

"That the General Grand Chapter is far from being a perfect body, none, I believe, are disposed to deny, and that its legislation has been defective is beyond controversy; but I respectfully suggest that the complaints made would stand on less exceptionable ground if those who make them would see themselves represented in that Grand Body and lend their aid to bring about the establishment of those regulations, the absence of which they censure in the distance."

Companion S. Marcy presented the best report on Foreign Correspondence ever printed in Vermont, and we are sorry to see him retire on account of age and infirm health. God bless him, and preserve his health many years longer. His review of the District of Columbia is fraternal. He says:

"Companion John Edwin Mason, Chairman of the Committee on F. C., submitted an elaborate, exhaustive report, in which is included the proceedings of thirty-five State Grand Chapters and those of England, France, Scotland, Nova Scotia and Canada. Vermont receives an extended fraternal notice, with his approval of our humble labors in the reportorial department; he congratulates Vermont with regard to her present status as an independent Grand Chapter, and like her compeers, Virginia and Pennsylvania, are not troubled with entangling alliances with any other foreign body. We regard Companion Mason's report as one of the best we have read, notwithstanding a little acerbity occasionally upheaves to give a zest to the whole of his intellectual feast."

VIRGINIA.

Annual Convocation was held at Richmond, December 15, 1870, with full representation of Chapters. Several charters were granted to new Chapters. The Grand High Priest presented no address.

A resolution was adopted allowing all the Chapters in West Virginia, holding charters from this Grand Chapter, to surrender them, and form a new Grand Chapter in that State.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by that prince of good fellows, Companion Wm. B. Isaacs, and is full of his genial wit and wisdom. He makes old Virginia smile with joy every time he presents one of his inimitable reports. One look at his face is a sure cure for dyspepsia; the same can be said of his reports. We will bet a "sherry and egg" that he enjoys the good things of this world.

The following is the report in reference to the General Grand Chapter, adopted by an almost unanimous vote :

“The General Grand Chapter is illegal in formation, since it is an innovation on the established usages of Masonry. It is expensive. The money required for its support could be expended in ways more in accordance with the usages and objects of Masonry. It deprives the Grand Chapters of their *inherent sovereignty*, and to their injury, as each Chapter is best acquainted with its own necessities—the publication of their proceedings and decisions being a sufficient guaranty against abuse of independence. It has been guilty of sins of omission and commission, of greediness, indecision, inability, and undue expensiveness, which charges have been made in the printed proceedings of sister Grand Chapters, as well as by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Virginia. No change for the better has been developed of late by the General Grand Chapter. It has failed in its primary objects of settling disputes between Grand Bodies and teaching a uniform system of work. Disputes can be and have been settled more effectually by the Grand Bodies themselves. The ritual of the Royal Arch degree can be best maintained in its purity by the Grand Chapters.”

WEST VIRGINIA.

We hail with satisfaction and pleasure the establishment of a Grand Chapter on the upper waters of the Potomac, for we feel that we are bound to West Virginia by this historic river. Our neighbors have been contemplating this step for several years, during which time we have been in correspondence with them. At last they have started out on this new path, which we feel certain will lead to success. They have our best wishes and congratulations.

Our report was closed when this new Grand Chapter was formed, but at a resumed Convocation of the Grand Chapter, November 29th, an official recognition was tendered, as our proceedings show, so we place this new star in the firmament, to shine among Grand Chapters, we trust, forever. The official letter will be found in its proper place in the proceedings ; but we present below another, written by the Grand Secretary, in answer to some questions asked by the writer. It contains items of interest to our Companions in this jurisdiction, as well as to those abroad, in regard to their intention to establish separate Councils in Cryptic Masonry, and no longer confer these degrees in Chapters as heretofore :

WHEELING, *November 25, 1871.*

JOHN EDWIN MASON, ESQ.,

*Chairman of Committee of Foreign Correspondence of
the Grand R. A. Chapter of District of Columbia.*

DEAR SIR AND COMPANION : Your highly esteemed favor of the 20th instant was received in due time, but I have delayed answering it until now in hope of being able to affix the seal of the new Grand Chapter of West Virginia to the communication I enclose. Unfortunately, however, we have not yet procured a seal, and I venture to send you a statement of the formation of the Grand Chapter of this State without attestation, fearing that if I wait any longer on the engraver my letter will not reach you prior to the 29th. If this explanation be satisfactory to the Companions, please present the enclosed letter to your Grand Chapter.

In relation to the inquiries in your letter, I would state that it was deemed best, *for the present*, to adopt the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, recognizing the degrees of Select Master and Royal Master as part of the Chapter work, and to be conferred upon the candidate prior to the M. E. M. Degree. A committee was appointed to prepare a permanent Constitution, &c., and report at the next Grand Annual Convocation, which committee, I presume, will consider the propriety of establishing Councils of Cryptic Masonry.

We have no immediate intention of becoming subordinate to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, *if we can help it*, and we think we can.

We would be very glad to receive from you copies of your proceedings, and trust that the relations between the two Grand Chapters may ever be cordial and fraternal.

Yours, with much regard,
O. S. LONG, *Grand Secretary*.

WISCONSIN.

Twenty-first Annual Convocation was held at Milwaukee, January 17, 1871, with a large attendance.

Grand High Priest Thomas B. Tyler delivered his annual address, which was interesting, and filled mostly with subjects of local importance. He gives a retrospective view of the past as follows:

"It is a matter of congratulation that this is the twenty-first anniversary of the existence of this Grand Chapter. On the day of its birth, in the year 1850, we numbered but five subordinate Chapters, with a membership of one hundred and twenty-five. To-day, we behold the representatives of forty Chapters, with a membership of over three thousand Companions.

"Are we not justified in the belief that our institution has been under the guardianship of good and wise men? And may we not claim that it has become one of the great moral powers, whose mission it is to teach man how to live in this world, and to aid him in his preparation for the next?"

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. Samuel Fallows, although read in his absence by Comp. J. P. C. Cottrill.

He reviews in an able and dignified manner the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters, ours for 1869 included. His review of our proceedings is kind and fraternal. An air of candor pervades the whole report.

CONCLUSION AND VALEDICTORY.

Ever since the organization of this Grand Chapter in 1867, the subscriber has written every word of the reports each year on Foreign Correspondence.

In writing them he has endeavored to be but the exponent of the Grand Chapter on all questions upon which the Grand Body has taken action, and to carefully refrain from referring to other subjects. Rarely has any opinion been expressed on any subject except where this Grand Chapter had *first* taken action, even though friends abroad asked it. This we have always conceived to be the duty of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

In battling for the right, against fearful odds, in the dark days when our Grand Chapter was pronounced to be clandestine, by the General Grand High Priest of the United States, and refused recognition by a few Grand Chapters, it was decided to give hard words and hard blows wherever we *first* received them. Like the old man in the fable, we threw grass first, and then stones. Looking back over this policy of past years, we would not change it, were we to fight our battles over again.

And now that our battle is ended and the victory won, and this Grand Chapter in fraternal correspondence with a larger number of Grand Chapters than *any other on the globe*, we believe it the proper time for us to make our valedictory bow and retire from this field of hard labor. This we have contemplated doing for a long time. We have entered into more extensive fields of literary labor, and can find no time to prepare these reports. All our leisure hours are now employed in literary labor, outside of Freemasonry. But within the mystic circle, the literary labor staring us in the face is not light.

Under the directions of our Grand Chapter we are now preparing and compiling the Masonic and poetical works of our late beloved Grand High Priest, B. B. FRENCH.

We hope to make this one of the most valuable contributions to Masonic literature ever published.

We are also compiling the entire works of our early instructor and mentor in Freemasonry, JEREMY L. CROSS.

Beside these works the promise of stated contributions to several Masonic periodicals will consume all the time we can snatch from other literary labor, to devote to Freemasonry.

And now to our Companions of the quill abroad, we bid an affectionate farewell—perhaps forever. We have rowed our boat down the river of life in your company, and you have seen the dip of our oar, and felt the strength of our muscle. Over dangerous rapids and laughing cataracts we have pulled along together. The merry song has been mixed with the stentorian cry of the oarsman. If you separate the song from the muscular stroke, you destroy half of the beauty and joy our journey together has afforded.

To those who have abused our Grand Chapter, and abused the writer for defending it when assailed, we have not one word to utter. We leave their conduct to their consciences and their God. The world is large enough for us all to live in it and never greet each other.

But leaving this insignificant number, and passing to the great bulk of Masons who are the friends of our Grand Chapter, and have been from its birth, we have a parting word. We have shared alike your generosity and your Masonic charity. You have put us under so many obligations, that words are but poor things with which to convey to you the feelings of our sincere hearts.

The kind words you have uttered "are treasured *immortelles*. Like "apples of gold in pictures of silver," they shall ever be kept bright.

"Kind words can never die,
Cherished and blest,
God knows how deep they lie,
Stored in the breast;
Like Childhood's simple rhymes,
Said o'er a thousand times,
And in all years and climes,
Distant and near."

For these kind words, not only to our Grand Chapter, but so often expressed in the undeserved compliments upon the reports of the writer, we bow our sincere and grateful thanks. The many eulogistic notices of the works of our pen, from those similarly engaged, we have attributed to their kindness of heart, and not to any intrinsic merit in our reports.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN EDWIN MASON,

Chairman of Committee.

A circular from the General Grand Chapter, relating to collection of one cent from each R. A. Mason in this jurisdiction, to defray expenses of General Grand Chapter, was read and the amount appropriated.

The M. E. G. H. Priest, appointed Companion Henry Robertson as Representative of this G. R. A. Chapter near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

The committee to whom was referred the address of the Grand High Priest made a report, and on motion it was ordered that it be re-committed to the committee to report at the next meeting of the Grand Chapter.

On motion, it was ordered that the use of the *** in the subordinate Chapters in conferring the R. A. Degree, be left to the discretion of the M. E. H. Priests of said Chapters.

M. E. Companion Albert Pike, P. G. H. Priest of the State of Arkansas, submitted credentials from the Grand Chapter of Oregon, appointing him Grand Representative near this Grand Chapter, which was recognized, and the Companion received as such.

On motion, the sum of \$445.35, with interest, was appropriated to reimburse the Grand Treasurer for that amount loaned the Grand Chapter.

On motion, the sum of \$50 was appropriated to defray the expenses of the Grand Council to the General Grand Chapter at Baltimore.

The following bills were read, and ordered to be paid:

Masonic Hall Association, \$50.

Grand Secretary's salary, \$75.

The Committee on Accounts submitted the following report, which was received, and ordered to be printed with the proceedings:

WASHINGTON CITY, *November 14, 1871.*

Your committee, appointed to audit the accounts of the Grand Treasurer for the past Masonic year, beg leave to report that they have examined the books and find them correctly kept.

The financial condition of the Grand Chapter is as follows:

Amount received from all sources.....	\$1,532 50
Amount paid out as per vouchers.....	1,157 85
Leaving a balance in hands of Grand Treasurer.....	\$374 65

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. B. MACGROTTY,
C. W. HANCOCK,
WM. MIDDLETON,
Committee.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

Comp. J. DANIELS.....	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
" A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>R. E. Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" R. W. HARDY.....	<i>R. E. Grand King.</i>
" D. S. JONES.....	<i>R. E. Grand Scribe.</i>
" C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>R. E. Grand Secretary.</i>
" C. SMITH.....	<i>R. E. Grand Treasurer.</i>
" A. HOLMEAD.....	<i>Rev. and E. Grand Chaplain.</i>
" H. S. MERRILL.....	<i>E. Grand Captain of Host.</i>

No further business appearing, the Grand Chapter was called to a resumed Convocation on Wednesday, November 29th, at 7½ o'clock.

E. B. MACGROTTY,
Grand Secretary pro tem.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 29, 1871.

The Grand Chapter met and resumed labor.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	J. LOCKIE.....	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	J. DANIELS.....	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" "	A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
" "	R. W. HARDY.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	N. D. LARNER.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
E "	L. G. STEPHENS.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
" "	C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
" "	J. E. MASON.....	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	JOS. MCCOY.....	<i>as Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" "	ANDREW GLASS.....	<i>as Grand M. of 3d Vail.</i>
" "	J. E. PORTER.....	<i>Grand M. of 2d Vail.</i>
" "	S. BAXTER.....	<i>as Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>
" "	L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Deputy Grand High Priest, L. G. Stephens.

Past Grand Kings, A. Glass, C. W. Hancock, J. Daniels, and representatives and Past High Priests from all the Chapters.

Companion Mason, from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented the following letter :

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE

GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF WEST VIRGINIA,

WHEELING, November 25, 1871.

To the M. E. Grand High Priest, King, Scribe, and Companions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia :

COMPANIONS: I have the honor to announce to you that, on the 16th day of November, A. I. 2401, A. D. 1871, a Convention of Past High Priests, High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the Royal Arch Chapters in the State of West Virginia was held in the city of Wheeling, and it appearing that a constitutional number and a majority of said Chapters were duly represented therein, a Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the State of West Virginia was organized, constituted and opened in ample form; M. E. John P. Little, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, presiding.

The following named officers were duly elected and installed :

M. E. Thomas H. Logan, of Wheeling, Grand High Priest.

M. E. Frank Rex, of Parkersburg, Grand King.

M. E. L. A. Luce, of Martinsburg, Grand Scribe.

R. E. Elijah Day, of Wheeling, Grand Treasurer.

R. E. O. S. Long, of Wheeling, Grand Secretary.

We respectfully solicit your fraternal recognition, and desire the honor of a place upon your roll of correspondents.

Yours fraternally,

O. S. LONG,

Grand Secretary of the Grand R. A. Chapter of West Virginia.

Comp. Mason submitted the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the Grand R. A. Chapter, of the District of Columbia, extends a fraternal greeting of recognition to the new Grand Chapter of West Virginia, with a Royal Arch welcome and the right hand of fellowship.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of West Virginia be placed on the list of Grand Chapters, with which we are in fraternal correspondence, and copies of all past and future proceedings be transmitted by the Grand Secretary.

The committee on the address of the Grand High Priest submitted the following report, which was received :

Your committee, appointed on the address of the M. E. G. High Priest, respectfully report, that they have given the same a brief consideration, and are pleased to observe that the several subjects upon which it touches are treated in a fair and becoming manner, and that a spirit of true Masonic Companionship pervades the entire message.

The views expressed relative to the proceedings of the General G. R. A. Chapter at its late Convocation at Baltimore, Maryland, as recited in the address, meet our approval, and without enlarging on the points alluded to, your committee are glad to believe that the proceedings and work of this jurisdiction are in conformity with the requirements of the constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

In regard to granting special dispensations, your committee are satisfied that in the exercise of the prerogatives belonging to the M. E. G. High Priest, he has been governed by a strict observance of the land-marks of the Order; and we particularly commend his action in not permitting the ballot to be passed except on the stated Convocations of subordinate Chapters.

The subject of "Life Membership," to which the attention of this Grand Chapter is invited, appears on reflection to involve important considerations touching the powers of subordinate Chapters, as also the laws and usages of ancient craft Masonry. As your committee understand the *term*, it is an investiture of a Companion in one Chapter with full membership in another, without complying with the formalities required by the laws and customs of Chapter Masonry. If this be the correct definition the question naturally arises, ought a Chapter to be invested with power to confer such membership in such a manner? We are constrained to believe to the contrary; for, governed as all Masons are by well-defined rules, which we are all pledged to observe, no rights therefore should be granted to a Chapter by which such rules could possibly be set aside; and liable as the wisest Masonic bodies are to err in judgment, great abuses would be likely to follow if clothed with such authority. For if a Chapter can make one Companion a member in this manner, why can it not make a hundred or a thousand if it chooses? And might not the rights of the regular members be liable to be overruled by such new-made members? Your committee can scarcely foresee what grievances might ensue from such *precedents* if once established.

Moreover, it is very clear to your committee that such life membership is not warranted by the land-marks and laws of the Order. All Masonic writers on jurisprudence, so far as our knowledge extends, uniformly define "full membership" to consist in a regular exaltion or a regular affiliation; or, as stated by our Grand High Priest, by "petition, ballot, and

initiation." This is unquestionably the true Masonic mode, from which there should not be the slightest departure; and it should be borne in mind that Chapter Masonry derives its powers, and is governed in its proceedings, by the same laws and usages that pertain to ancient craft Masonry; hence, a Chapter, while it possesses the same rights, is also under the same restrictions as a Lodge, and ought not to deviate therefrom.

While all good and intelligent Masons delight to honor worth and talent in other Masons, or bodies of Masons, yet we think that subordinate Chapters should not be clothed with authority, nor be influenced by any considerations to depart from the good old laws and customs of ancient craft Masonry, especially where Masonic rights are involved.

Your committee, therefore, beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That full membership in a subordinate Chapter can only be obtained, in this jurisdiction, by petitioning for and receiving the degrees or by affiliation, except in the formation of a new Chapter.

In conclusion, your committee would take this occasion to express their gratification at the harmonious and prosperous condition of this Grand Chapter, and also express their gratitude to our retiring M. E. Grand High Priest for the urbane and judicious manner in which he has presided over its various convocations.

C. SMITH,
A. T. LONGLEY,
C. W. HANCOCK,
Committee.

Comp. Larner moved to postpone the consideration of the report and resolution until the semi-annual Convocation; which was adopted.

Bill of J. L. Pearson, for printing, amounting to \$6, was ordered to be paid.

Comp. Longley submitted the following resolutions on the death of Comp. Loomis, P. H. P. of Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 3, which were adopted:

An allusion having been made by our Grand High Priest, in his annual address, to the death of Companion S. T. Loomis, we beg to offer the following resolutions:

Whereas, it has pleased the Grand Architect of the Universe to call unto himself our esteemed Companion, S. T. Loomis, in the prime of life and the height of his usefulness; therefore

Resolved, That by his death this Grand Chapter has lost a respected and devoted Companion, who was alike active and efficient in performing all duties as a member and officer, as he was in the varied business and domestic walks of life.

Resolved, That although he has resided in this jurisdiction but a comparatively short time, yet he greatly endeared himself to his brethren by his social and gentlemanly qualities, as also by the interest he uniformly manifested in the welfare of our Order.

Resolved, That we tender to his afflicted widow and family, in their sad bereavement, our heartfelt sympathy, and mourn with them that our brother can no more be with us to participate in our labors or share in our joys.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, under the seal of the Grand Chapter, be transmitted to the widow of the deceased.

C. SMITH,	} Committee.
A. T. LONGLEY,	
C. W. HANCOCK,	

Companion Stephens offered the following preamble and resolution, which was adopted :

Whereas, in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, every High Priest-elect, previous to his installation, should receive the order of High Priesthood ; therefore,

Resolved, That the Past High Priests of this jurisdiction, who have attained to that degree, be, and they are hereby, requested to meet and organize a Council of High Priesthood.

Comp. Hancock, Grand Visitor and Lecturer, made some suggestions as to the work in the R. A. Degree, which Comp. Hardy moved to adopt. After discussion Comp. Hardy withdrew his motion.

On motion, it was ordered that the elective officers only of the subordinate Chapters should be obligated at installation.

M. E. Companion P. G. H. P. Mackey, at the request of the Grand High Priest, assumed the east and installed M. E. Comp. Jos. Daniels as Grand High Priest, who addressed the Grand Chapter in a few appropriate remarks, and then installed the following Grand officers :

Comp. A. T. LONGLEY.....	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" R. W. HARDY.....	<i>Grand King.</i>
" D. S. JONES.....	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" C. W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" H. S. MERRILL.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>

He then announced the following appointments :

Comp. L. G. STEPHENS.....	<i>E. Grand Visitor and Lecturer.</i>
" J. E. PORTER.....	<i>E. Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" A. BUCHLY.....	<i>E. Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" W. H. EARLE.....	<i>E. Grand M. of 3d Vail.</i>
" ALLEN WALL.....	<i>E. Grand M. of 2d Vail.</i>
" JOS. McCOY.....	<i>E. Grand M. of 1st Vail.</i>
" L. STODDARD.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

And installed all except Comps. C. Smith, A. Holmead, Earle and Wall.

The Grand Secretary was directed to inform Comps. Earle and Wall to appear in Lafayette Chapter at their next Convocation for installation.

He also announced the following standing committees :

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Committee on Examination—

- Comp. J. W. GRIFFIN, Past H. P. No. 3.
 “ ANDREW GLASS, Past H. P. No. 6.
 “ I. L. JOHNSON, Past H. P. No. 4.

Committee on Grievances—

- Comp. A. BUCHLY, H. P. No. 4.
 “ W. H. EARLE, H. P. No. 2.
 “ F. M. MARSHALL, E. K. No. 3.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence—

- Comp. CHAUNCY SMITH, P. H. P. No. 5.
 “ N. D. LARNER, P. H. P. No. 4.
 “ E. G. DAVIS, E. S. No. 2.

Committee on Accounts—

- Comp. E. B. MACGROTTY, Past H. P. No. 4.
 “ ANDREW WOODS, E. K. No. 6.
 “ J. H. JOCHUM, E. K. No. 1.

Committee on Jurisprudence—

- Comp. J. E. F. HOLMEAD, Past G. H. P.
 “ J. G. SMITH, Past G. H. P.
 “ JOHN LOCKIE, Past G. H. P.

On motion of P. G. H. P. Lockie, the Grand Treasurer was authorized to negotiate a loan of \$300, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the expenses of the Grand Chapter for the ensuing year.

Comp. Larner inquired whether it was necessary that all officers of subordinate Chapters should be installed. The M. E. Grand High Priest decided that it was.

On motion of Comp. Larner the Grand Secretary was authorized to print 1,000 copies of the proceedings for the use of the Grand Chapter.

Companion L. G. Stephens offered the following amendment to the Constitution: Article 2, section 1: Insert after the words “and Grand Janitor,” “the four first of whom must be present, or Past High Priests.”

Companion Larner offered the following amendment to the Constitution: To section 1 of article 17, add the words, “but no Companion shall be eligible to the office of High Priest who has not served either as King or Scribe of a Chapter.”

On motion, it was voted that a sufficient amount be appropriated to pay the Grand Chapter's proportion for calendars for the ensuing and past two years.

On motion, it was ordered that a sufficient amount be appropriated to pay for printing the proceedings of the Grand Chapter for the ensuing year.

No further business appearing, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

C. W. HANCOCK,
G. Secretary.

STATEMENT,

Showing the numerical condition of the several Chapters in the jurisdiction, with the work of the past year and amounts due and paid by each to the Grand Chapter for 1871.

Name and No. of Chapter.	No. of members per last return.	ADD.			Total during year.	DEDUCT.					Present No. of members.	Rejected.	Amount paid by the several Chapters to the Grand Chapter.
		Exalted since.	Affilia .	Reinstated.		Withdrawn.	Died.	Dropped.	Suspended.	Expelled.			
Columbia..... No. 1	151	25	2	8	186	4	1	12	.....	.....	169	.....	\$139 50
Washington No. 2	198	25	1	.....	224	6	8	52	.....	.....	163	.....	144 00
Mt. Vernon..... No. 3	118	23	1	5	146	7	1	2	.....	.....	136	.....	119 00
Eureka..... No. 4	121	31	1	.....	158	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	.....	158 50
La Fayette..... No. 5	139	31	7	.....	177	2	2	.....	.....	.....	173	.....	159 50
Washington Naval..... No. 6	45	9	.....	.....	54	2	.....	5	.....	.....	47	.....	46 00
Potomac..... No. 8	66	7	.....	1	74	1	1	.....	.....	.....	72	.....	57 50
	888	150	12	14	1,014	25	8	71	.....	.....	910	.....	819 00

CHAUNCEY SMITH, GRAND TREASURER,

In Account with the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Dr.		Cr.
1870.		
Nov. 14.	To cash received of Grand Secretary for dues of subordinate Chapters.	
Nov. 14.	From Columbia Chapter, No. 1.	\$713 50
Nov. 14.	From Washington Chapter, No. 2.	139 50
Nov. 14.	From Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3.	144 00
Nov. 14.	From Eureka Chapter, No. 4.	119 00
Nov. 14.	From Lafayette Chapter, No. 5.	153 50
Nov. 14.	From Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6.	159 50
Nov. 14.	From Potomac Chapter, No. 8.	46 00
		57 50
1871.		
Nov. 14.	By balance due Grand Treasurer on last Masonic year.	\$127 47
Nov. 15.	By cash paid N. D. Larner, Grand Secretary, for salary to Nov. 1, 1870.	75 00
Nov. 15.	By cash paid J. N. Burrett for advertising in Sunday Herald.	3 75
Nov. 15.	By cash paid Evening Star for advertising.	6 25
Nov. 15.	By cash paid H. Kings, jr., for crape and gloves for funeral of G. H. P. French.	36 00
Nov. 15.	By cash paid Masonic Hall Association for rent to Nov. 1, 1870.	50 00
Nov. 15.	By cash paid Joseph L. Pearson for printing.	6 50
Nov. 15.	By cash paid Morsell & Dearing for case in Grand Secretary's office.	100 00
Jan. 4.	By cash paid L. Stoddard, jr., for services as Grand Janitor for 1870.	12 50
Jan. 5.	By cash paid N. D. Larner, Grand Secretary, for postage.	10 00
Jan. 5.	By cash paid J. L. Pearson for printing proceedings for 1870.	350 88
Feb. 28.	By cash paid N. D. Larner for regalia and jewel for Gr. Rep. of Scotland.	63 50
Feb. 28.	By cash paid C. W. Hancock, G. V. and L., for salary to Nov. 1, 1870.	50 00
Feb. 28.	By cash paid D. S. Jones for music at the funeral of G. H. P. French.	66 00
May 1.	By cash paid N. D. Larner, Grand Secretary, for salary to date.	75 00
May 15.	By cash paid C. W. Hancock, G. V. and L., for salary to May 1, 1871.	50 00
May 15.	By cash paid N. D. Larner for rent of Masonic Hall to May 1, 1871.	50 00
May 15.	By cash paid E. B. MacGrothy for engrossing resolutions on the death of G. H. P.	25 00
	Balance on hand.	\$1,157 85
		374 65
		\$1,532 50

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be permitted, under the Charters to be issued to them, to confer the Council degrees therein, and that said degrees shall not, in any manner, be connected with the Chapters.—*May 24, 1867.*

Resolved, That hereafter a petition for a charter for a new Chapter shall not be considered by the Grand Chapter until the Grand Secretary shall be satisfied that the petitioners for the charter have paid all indebtedness to the Chapters to which they belong.—*May 31, 1869.*

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter disapproves the use of substitutes in conferring any of the degrees of Capitular Masonry, and hereby prohibits its practice in this jurisdiction.—*November 8, 1869.*

Resolved, That the Subordinate Chapters of this jurisdiction shall hereafter require all applicants for the Capitular degrees to state on their applications whether they have or have not made a like application to any other Chapter for the degrees, and also to state their occupation and place of residence.—*November 8, 1869.*

Resolved, That when a Brother has been elected to receive the degrees in a Chapter, and an objection is entered to his receiving them by a member of the Chapter in good standing, the degrees shall not be conferred upon the Brother so long as the objection shall remain; but should the Companion who made the objection cease to be a member of the Chapter from any cause, the objection shall fall and the Brother be entitled to have the degrees conferred upon him, unless the objection shall be renewed by a member in good standing in the Chapter.—*November 14, 1870.*

RETURNS OF CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS,
 WORKING UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
 OF THE
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

At the Annual Convocation in November, 1871, with the names of their
 officers for the year ending November, 1872.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER, No. 1.

Meets on the first and third Wednesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

HENRY S. MERRILL, M. E. H. P. J. H. JOCHUM, E. K.
 GEO. A. ABBOTT, E. S. HENRY O. NOYES, Treasurer
 L. G. STEPHENS, Secretary.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

JOHN LOCKIE, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.
 L. G. STEPHENS, P. H. P. and P. D. G. H. P.
 JOS. T. BROWN, P. H. P.
 GEO. D. PATTEN, jr., P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Acker, Nicholas	Bliss, D. W.	Crosby, W. H.
Albright, Frederick	Beatty, J. H.	Cruit, Henry
Abbott, Geo. A.	Belk, Jas. E.	Clark, Thos. E.
Andrews, Wm. P.	Bright, Geo. A.	Copp, H. N.
Acker, Jacob N.	Boteler, Jno. W.	Calvert, F. G.
Anderson, H. P.	Baker, Jno. C.	Crossfield, Geo. R.
Adams, Jno. R.	Bennett, H. F.	Cavanaugh, Thos.
Beckett, Thos.	Borland, A. J.	Chamberlin, E. H.
Beck, Wm.	Brown, Chas. O.	Carpenter, B. D.
Bishop, D. J.	Boswell, R. H.	Dillon, M. A.
Bowen, C. H.	Casey, C. C.	Donaldson, R. B.
Brown, Jos. T.	Champion, R. A.	Demelman, D. L.
Brown, E. R.	Choate, W. C.	Dummer, Geo. E.
Bryan, Wm.	Choate, Warren	Dengel, Jno. P.
Breece, H. C.	Cowie, Geo.	Dichman, Ernst
Burr, H. C.	Creaser, Thos.	Edwards, Edw'd

Essex, Josiah
 Enderlee, Jos. L.
 Fager, J. C.
 Ford, C. M.
 Froiseth, B. A. N.
 Fechtig, W. C.
 Foster, Thos.
 Ferguson, R. B.
 French, R. D. DeL.
 Garfield, Jas. A.
 Gawler, A. H.
 Gibbons, Chas. H.
 Gibson, Geo.
 Griffith, C. T.
 Gould, C. G.
 Gibson, David
 House, E. E.
 Hall, C. H.
 Holmead, A.
 Humphrey, Josiah.
 Heilbrun, L.
 Hood, H. O.
 Herzberg, Chas.
 Hills, W. H.
 Humer, J. S.
 Hamacher, Joseph
 Howland, G. W.
 Hoover, Jno T.
 Henderson, G. A.
 Hartung, C. E.
 Hulse, Chas. L.
 Hamilton, Chas. M.
 Hyam, P. C.
 Ingle, Jno. H.
 Jewell, Jno. M.
 Johansen, H. P. T.
 Johnson, Wm. T.
 Jochum, J. H.
 Jarvis, C. F.
 Kennedy, G. W. E.
 Kerr, John

Knox, Jno. O.
 Knox, Geo. W.
 Kondrup, J. C.
 Klotz, Chas.
 Kolb, Edward
 Knapp, D. E.
 Kelley, A. W.
 Leisnitzer, E. J.
 Lockie, John
 Lord, Jno. B.
 Lower, W. W.
 Lowrie, R. W.
 Lashorn, J. V.
 Maguire, T. F.
 Macarty, D. J.
 Magee, J. L.
 Merrill, H. S.
 Mills, W. H.
 Moore, S. H.
 Moulden, J. A.
 Morgan, Henry
 McKendry, Wallace
 McKee, Jas. W.
 McMurray, Robert
 McGlathery, Frank
 McDonald, Alex.
 McLeod, E. M.
 Nelson, C. C.
 Niles, Samuel V.
 Nutze, Chas. T.
 Noyes, Henry O.
 Nailor, jr., Alison
 Newhall, C. L.
 Owen, S. W.
 Patten, jr., Geo. D.
 Pierce, J. H.
 Purdy, sr., John
 Purdy, jr., John
 Pyser, Jacob
 Poynton, J. C.
 Parker, M. M.

Plant, jr., Geo. H.
 Proctor, J. C.
 Penicks, Thos. B.
 Potts, Jos. Y.
 Pearson, Isaac
 Russell, Jno. H.
 Root, B. C.
 Ryneal, jr. Geo.
 Reed, Wm. B.
 Russell, Thos.
 Rich, Jacob
 Robinson, J. K.
 Redway, R. G.
 Reed, B. M.
 Scheell, Jno. E.
 Small, Bruce
 St. Clair, Jas. W.
 Stephens, L. G.
 Stewart, Jno. C.
 Stoddard, L.
 Slater, Isaac C.
 Slater, Jno. S.
 Strait, N. A.
 Schultze, Jno. H.
 Thorp, M. R.
 Tenney, Wm. H.
 Tomlinson, Jno. S.
 Topham, Jas. S.
 Vaux, E. P.
 Wight, G. M.
 Wilcox, E. B.
 Wollard, J. F.
 Wyville, W. D.
 White, Jas. W.
 Wirt, W. W.
 Ward, Geo. C.
 Wheeler, Chas. S.
 Weideman, Jno.
 Williamson, J. B.

Reinstated.

Brown, Chas. O.
 Beckett, Thos.
 Boswell, R. H.

Jarvis, C. F.
 Polkinhorn, Henry
 Rathborne, J. H.

Solomon, S. N.
 Wilson, H. C.

Withdrawn.

Polkinhorn, Henry	Rathbone, J. H.	Solomon, S. N.
	Wilson, H. C.	

Died.

Gleason, James.

Dropped for N. P. D.

Brown, B. W.	Kennedy, R. B.	Moore, W. O.
Branson, P. H.	McGuire, J. C.	Wurdeman, J. V.
Coffran, J. W.	Milburn, Benedict	Witzleben, A. De
Cohen, Mark	Mowry, Geo. W.	Riley, Jos. L.

WASHINGTON CHAPTER, No. 2.

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

WM. H. EARLE, M. E. H. P.	J. J. CHAPMAN, E. K.
E. G. DAVIS, E. S.	ROBERT H. GRAHAM, Treasurer.
A. T. LONGLEY, Secretary.	

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.
 J. MOODY SMITH, P. H. P.
 WM. MIDDLETON, P. H. P. and P. G. S.
 A. T. LONGLEY, P. H. P. and D. G. H. P.
 J. O. GOODRICH, P. H. P.
 ROS. A. FISH, P. H. P.
 GEORGE B. CLARK, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Ackerman, M. L.	Barroll, F. H.	Bird, John H.
Allen, S. C.	Bartholow, J. P.	Burnham, N.
Ashby, J. R.	Bassett, George T.	Budlong, J. N.
Atkins, E. H.	Blout, I. L.	Bailey, Thomas L.
Alexander, C. M.	Bogan, S. W.	Boyd, Robert
Anderson, Robert	Bond, R. V.	Baldwin, W. D.
Baldwin, Edward	Bonell, E.	Campbell, William J.
Ball, Robert	Boteler, H. D.	Campbell, Richard

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Campbell, T. B. | Hable, S. L. | Pearson, H. C. |
| Chapman, H. N. | Hable, A. | Reed, Thomas M. |
| Clark, George B. | Hayes, Charles W. | Reifsnnyder, J. H. |
| Clarke, George H. | Hinds, George | Roberson, J. |
| Cornelius, Rev. J. W. | Hirsch, Moses | Roose, W. S. |
| Cox, Jos. L. | Holmead, J. E. F. | Rowland, J. S. C. |
| Craig, A. | Hudson, James | Riley, Thomas R. |
| Croggon, R. C. | Hughes, Evan | Riley, H. E. |
| Crown, S. T. | Hamlin, J. P. | Sears, P. B. |
| Cushaw, E. L. | Hartz, W. T. | Schleimer, D. |
| Clark, Thomas A. | Hennage, J. H. | Scudder, Rev. Jos. |
| Chapman, J. J. | Hibbs, George D. C. | Sheriff, George L. |
| Carver, Frank N. | Howard, A. M. | Sherman, Charles |
| Casilear, George W. | Hume, T. L. | Smith, Charles B. |
| Clarvoe, J. A. W. | Hutton, J. D. | Smith, J. Moody |
| Callahan, J. J. | Johnston, William H. | Smith, John M. |
| Clagett, Dorsey | Kaighn, M. M. | Skerrett, W. H. |
| Campbell, Charles D | Kramer, L. J. | Stephenson, W. J. |
| Coleman, A. S. | Kersey, Matthew | Sterling, W. J. |
| Dawson, J. B. | Leamy, John | Stoch, J. G. |
| Dyre, William W. S. | Levy, H. | Sullivan, J. J. |
| Davis, E. G. | Logan, D. J. | Stephenson, A. H. |
| Dell, F. C. | Longley, A. T. | Shepherd, William |
| Downman, R. W. | Lynch, James | Sprague, F. H. |
| Draney, F. M. | Lefo, Jacob | Seymour, Jos. L. |
| Earl, Charles | Longley, E. King | Taylor, A. S. |
| Earle, William H. | Lamb, James H. | Thompson, G. R. |
| Ellis, H. C. | Marks, H. S. | Thorn, Benjamin T. |
| Elliott, J. J. | Marks, S. A. H. | Toomb, R. |
| Edwards, T. J. | McClermont, R. | Trimble, M. |
| Fish, Ros. A. | McElwee, James | Tait, Alexander |
| Frederic, John D. | Meloy, S. H. | Varela, A. C. |
| Fugitt, N. B. | Middleton, William | Voute, C. H. |
| Farren, George | Morgan, Richard | Von Fostner, S. F. |
| Frazier, B. W. | Montgomery, W. | Whiteford, R. M. |
| Garrison, J. R. | McIntosh, D. | Whyte, Frederick |
| Gedney, J. F. | Montandan, A. | Williamson, James |
| Glover, L. | McElroy, James | Winter, S. K. |
| Goodrich, J. O. | Miller, Charles P. | Wolfe, A. B. |
| Graham, Robert H. | Nalley, W. H. | Walker, James T. |
| Green, H. M. | Newton, A. Steve | Williams, J. Z. |
| Griffin, E. W. W. | Noble, H. B. | Wright, L. W. |
| Guild, James | Orcutt, W. H. | Whiting, A. T. |
| Gardner, Thomas I. | Olcott, R. G. | Walker, W. T. |
| Gradwhal, L. | Pearl, Marcus | Young, George D. |
| Gillman, H. M. | Pearson, S. P. | Zeverly, E. A. |
| Gaddess, Thomas A. | | |

Withdrawn.

Abbott, A. W.
Blackford, W. D.

Carpenter, L. Cass
Doughty, P. H.

Fuller, W. H.
Tyssowski, J.

Died.

Cropley, W. C.

Darr, G. W.

Pocock, Thomas

Dropped for N. P. D.

Ashley, J. R.
Baxter, M. C.
Beekman, James
Belger, James
Blakely, T. M.
Bowen, E. W.
Browning, J. W.
Burnett, D. L.
Childs, A. T.
Corbin, E. Lyon
DeNey, Vasco
Delano, M. T.
Delwig, L. A.
Forbes, Darius
Freeman, B.
Graham, W. W.
Gunn, P. H.
Groggon, R.

Gorman, A. P.
Grossmayer, N.
Higgin, H. A.
Hanson, J. G.
Hunt, Hiram L.
Hurst, James H.
Henning, A.
James, Clements
Kennedy, Thomas
Mann, W. D.
Mitchell, M. C.
Moore, W. D.
Norton, Frank A.
Nutt, G. W.
Niles, Henry C.
O'Rear, W. A.
Peterson, August
Philips, A.

Pearson, H. C.
Powers, Richard
Peck, W. C.
Reigart, J. M.
Rogers, George J.
Sears, Charles A.
Spencer, Frank A.
Street, J. R.
Sykes, L.
Tower, Richard
Tacey, Jeff.
Tilley, Stephen
Tolson, A.
Van Campen, S.
Webster, J. R.
Wells, G. Wiley

MOUNT VERNON CHAPTER, No. 3.

Meets on the second and fourth Mondays in each month.

OFFICERS.

SAMUEL BARKER, M. E. H. P. C. L. PATTEN, E. K.
F. M. MARSHALL, E. S. J. W. GRIFFIN, Treasurer.
J. H. PICKELL, Secretary.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

CHARLES W. HANCOCK, P. H. P. and G. Secretary.
HENRY A. WHALLON, P. H. P. and P. G. K.
D. B. SEARLE, P. H. P.
JOSEPH DANIELS, P. H. P. and G. H. P.
JOHN W. GRIFFIN, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Alexander, C. L. Anderson, W. S. Barrowes, S. M.
Allen, J. C. Appel, Charles A. Bates, George A.
Allen, E. K. Ashdown, W. W. Baxter, Samuel

- Brady, Charles B.
 Brelsford, H. W.
 Brown, P. B.
 Burgdorf, Louis
 Burns, B. F.
 Cameron, John
 Carrington, S. E.
 Cate, A. B.
 Castle, D. E.
 Chapman, N. O.
 Clarke, N. B.
 Clarke, P. M.
 Clarke, E. W. jr,
 Comstock, O. W.
 Cooke, O. W.
 Cluss, Adolf
 Daniels, Joseph
 Daniels, F. G.
 Daniels, A. M.
 Daniels, R. G.
 Davy, James, jr.
 Dearborn, Orrin M.
 DeCaindry, W. A.
 Dennison, C. W.
 Dole, S. A.
 Douglass, W. O.
 Doyle, J. A.
 Driggs, George T.
 Eichler, William
 Eldridge, W. W.
 Firman, O. S.
 Flanagan, C. L.
 Francis, George W.
 Frantz, C. F. L.
 Fries, Henry
 Fry, W. H.
 Fowler, T. T.
 Garwood, S. N.
 Gawler, Joseph
 Gilbert, B. F.
 Gilbert, O. H.
 Glasscott, W. H.
 Gleason, Albert
- Goepel, Paul
 Greene, W. H.
 Griffin, John W.
 Gray, E. H.
 Hancock, C. W.
 Hart, William
 Hay, William J.
 Haight, Charles R.
 Hesse, J. C.
 Helmus, William
 Heywood, George B.
 Holden, Charles H.
 Hoover, J. W.
 Isham, L. D.
 Jansen, J. C.
 Jaquette, I. G.
 Johnson, S. A.
 Johnson, A. E.
 Jones, P. E.
 Jones, W. M.
 Kelley, M. Frank
 Kimball, L. W.
 King, John J.
 King, Charles W.
 Kinney, A. T.
 Lacy, Robert S.
 Larman, John Q.
 Lyford, B. F.
 Marshall, F. M.
 McCormick, James R.
 McKenna, James
 McKnight, J. W.
 Metcalf, F. S.
 Michener, John E.
 Montgomery, R. H.
 Murray, B. P.
 Muzzy, A. M.
 Nordstrom, C. E.
 Page, Charles
 -Patten, C. L.
 Patterson, James
 Partridge, George W.
- Partello, W. P.
 Partello, D. J.
 Philp, Franklin
 Pickell, John H.
 Pinney, George M.
 Potter, W. W.
 Pratt, George W.
 Randall, A. F.
 Richardson, J. P.
 Saunders, L. M.
 Saville, J. H.
 Schreiber, William
 Schriftgeisser, P. L.
 Searle, D. B.
 Searle, H. R.
 Servoss, S. M. B.
 Scymour, H. A.
 Shepherd, Charles T.
 Sherwood, H. L.
 Stuyvesant, George W.
 Stevens, C. C.
 Sweet, W. E.
 Sylvester, J. H.
 Stiles, George P.
 Terry, Seth A.
 Thompson, M.
 Tichener, J. S.
 Trask, W. E.
 Tyler, W. C.
 Wallace, George, jr.
 Wallace, R. B.
 Washburn, H. S.
 Walton, W. H.
 Webster, W. H.
 Whallon, H. A.
 Widerman, L. T.
 Wilson, J. C.
 Wilson, L. A.
 Wood, George H.
 Wyman, C. T.
 Yates, William A.
 Yates, J. V.

Reinstated.

- Ashdown, W. W.
 Partello, D. J.
- Giddings, Edwin
 Partello, W. P.
- Glascott, W. H.

Withdrawn.

Catlin, Charles L.
Dawson, Charles
Fenton, Frank A.

Gafney, Charles B.
Giddings, Edwin

Morris, Edward L.
Thorne, S. Norris

Died.

Loomis, S. T., P.: H.: P.:

Dropped for N. P. D.

Farlee, W. A.

White, H. A.

EUREKA CHAPTER, No. 4.

Meets on the second and fourth Fridays in each month.

OFFICERS.

ANTHONY BUCHLY, M.: E.: H.: P.: PHILIP S. CRAIG, E.: K.:
EDWIN S. HOLMES, E.: S.: WILLIAM H. GOODS, Treasurer.
S. JOHN THOMSON, Secretary.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

ISAAC L. JOHNSON, P.: H.:
EDWIN B. MACGROTTY, P.: H.: P.: and P.: G.: S.:
CHAUNCEY SMITH, P.: H.: P.: and G.: Treasurer.

Royal Arch Masons.

Abrams, A.	Brenizer, W. H.	Davis, J. C.
Aldridge, T.	Brereton, W. H.	Dearing, G. T.
Allman, J.	Bright, J. G.	Downing, W. B.
Aman, S.	Brock, W. G.	Draper, N. C.
Amiss, T. B.	Brown, O. C.	Draper, A. H.
Anderson, W. A.	Bruni, C.	Ebbinghaus, J. W.
Bacon, A. A.	Buchly, A.	Faunce, C.
Barker, W. P.	Butt, W. B.	Fay, E. L.
Bartlett, J. D.	Butts, A. B.	Fearson, C. D.
Been, H.	Campbell, R. G.	Fowler, C. H.
Bell, W. P.	Campbell, E.	Franzoni, C. W.
Benjamin, C. F.	Champlin, T. H.	Gassenheimer, L.
Benser, G. W.	Chase, H.	Gentner, J. J.
Bishop, L. C.	Craig, P. S.	Gettinger, B. F.
Bonitz, H.	Cromwell, Z. W.	Gill, S. F.
Bordman, E. K.	Crosby, H. T.	Goods, W. H.
Bourne, T. C.	Crump, J. E.	Gordon, R. A.
Bowen, J. G.	Curtis, W.	Greer, C. E.
Boyd, Wm. H.	Davis, J.	Hadaway, C.
Bradley, H. H.	Davis, J. S.	Haislip, J. W.

Harmon, C. P.	McAuliffe, D.	Siegel, M.
Harris, R. L.	McCallum, A. M.	Slater, J.
Harrison, W. H.	McClary, E. S.	Smith, C.
Hempstone, S. H.	McFarlan, D.	Smith, F. H.
Hibbs, E. T.	Montgomery, J. H.	Sonnenschmidt, C. W.
Hodgman, A. W.	Morsell, S. T. G.	Spencer, H. C.
Holmes, E. S.	Mueller, G. J.	Spengler, T.
Howard, J. W.	Munson, H. S.	Stephenson, J. F.
Humphrey, R. T.	Myers, W. C.	Stone, W. C.
Humphreys, G. W.	Ottman, R. R.	Sutter, B. P.
Hunter, G. M.	Pearson, J. P.	Swaney, C. M.
Jenks, W. S.	Pilson, J. H.	Taylor, R. H.
Johnson, W. H.	Pinkney, W.	Thompson, O. T.
Johnson, I. L.	Poindexter, W. M.	Thomson, S. J.
Johnson, A. E. H.	Proctor, T.	Trimble, J. H.
Johnston, F.	Redington, J. K.	Tudor, W. V.
Kaufman, L.	Reeves, jr., J.	Turton, G. H.
Kettler, L.	Reynolds, C. W.	Viven, J. L.
Keyworth, J.	Richmond, G. Q.	Von, H. H.
King, G. S.	Ridenour, U. H.	Wall, J. C.
Knotts, J. W.	Riessner, C.	West, F. E.
Kromberger, W.	Ritter, F.	Wheeler, E. G.
Lee, J. C.	Rives, J.	Whitcomb, A. M.
Lein, H. B.	Rives, F.	Whittemore, B. F.
Lemkul, L.	Sergeant, J. L.	Whittlesey, R. H.
Lillebridge, G. H.	Schafhirt, F. H.	Wilson, P. R.
Lloyd, B. L.	Schley, E. S.	Winnemore, I. J.
Low, J. E.	Sears, W. L.	Wright, C. H.
MacGrotty, E. B.	Seip, R. C.	Yager, J. H.
Martin, J. E.	Short, W. A.	Young, W. P.

Withdrawn.

Davis, John G.	Mygatt, Henry N.	Wilson, Davies
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LAFAYETTE CHAPTER, No. 5.

Meets on the first and third Saturdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

CHARLES E. COON, M. · E. · H. · P. ·	JAMES J. BARNES, E. · K. ·
JOSEPH S. MCCOY, E. · S. ·	FLEMING R. GRIFFITH, Treasurer.
JOHN E. MASON, Secretary.	

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

RIGHT HON. MARQUIS OF RIPON, P. · H. · P. ·
RIGHT HON. LORD TENTERDEN, P. · H. · P. ·
M. E. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN, P. · H. · P. ·

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, P. H. P.

ALBERT G. MACKEY, M. D., P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.

ALBERT PIKE, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.

N. P. CHIPMAN, P. H. P.

N. D. LARNER, P. H. P. and P. G. Secretary.

D. S. JONES, P. H. P. and G. S.

Royal Arch Masons.

Adams, Jas. L., M. D.	Cox, C. C., M. D. LL. D.	Linville, George W.
Arnold, Jay H.	Cramer, Joseph B.	Madge, Oscar D.
Arnold, Walter J.	Creecy, C. Eaton	Martin, Luther
Barr, W. L.	Davis, David O.	Mason, James M.
Baar, Lewis	Dickinson, George T.	Mason, J. E., M. D.
Barr, Henry D.	Dixon, John H.	McConnell, J. C., M. D.
Barns, James Jay	Duncan, Samuel A.	McCoy, Joseph S.
Baker, Henry M.	Duren, John A.	McKeever, Samuel
Barry, William M.	Duvall, Lameech	McLean, Harry C.
Balloch, George W.	Eaton, Walter S.	Minnick, William H.
Bates, Stephen	Fiske, Eugene A.	Morgan, Francis H.
Beam, Henry D.	Fitch, Geo. A., M. D.	Moulton, Charles H.
Bender, Joseph T.	Fitzki, Edward	Moore, William G.
Bentley, Alexander J.	French, Benjamin F.	Murdock, Charles M.
Betz, Louis	Fuller, Edward H.	Morgan, Charles W.
Blue, David Smalley	Fox, Albert F.	Owen, F. W., M. D.
Bishop, Henry H.	Gage, Norris L.	Palmer, Benjamin F.
Booraem, Edgar I.	Gambs, George	Parks, Calvin M.
Boyden, George	Gassaway, James M.	Parks, Rev. James H.
Bond, Samuel R.	Gillham, Robert	Patterson, John B.
Boyle, Augustus F., jr.	Gilmore, Charles D.	Patterson, D. W. C., M. D.
Brandebury, Lem. A.	Glenn, John W.	Perkins, Edward A.
Brewster, Henry A.	Gordon, Charles G.	Perley, James P.
Brecht, Theodore C.	Griffith, Fleming R.	Philipp, Moritz B.
Bridgman, George W.	Grinnell, James S.	Pierce, Daniel T.
Bridges, Edwin T.	Greer, John R.	Powers, William G.
Brown, And. R., M. D.	Hale, Edward W.	Ray, Herbert H.
Browne, William H.	Harrison, Luther	Rider, W. L., M. D.
Bunker, George W.	Hart, Amos W.	Riggles, John H.
Burnham, D. Stark	Heller, Simon	Robertson, Samuel P.
Burt, Ellery J.	Howell, M. E. N.	Ross, Burton R.
Chapman, Charles W.	Howard, G. M., M. D.	Rutherford, Allan
Chandler, M. Ten Eyck	Irwin, Walter R.	Rosekrans, Isaac A.
Chase, Charles W.	Jones, Daniel S.	Sargent, Hosea Q.
Cheney, J. E., M. D.	Kant, Christian E.	Schutter, Hubert
Chipman, Norton P.	Knox, John J.	Sharman, Rev. Wm.
Clements, John T.	Larner, Noble D.	Shaw, Josiah
Coon, Charles E.	LeMoore, Ernest H.	Shepherd, Thomas M.
Colledge, C. B. R.	Libbey, Israel P.	Sickels, William

Simms, John W.	Strachan, Samuel S.	Welcker, Peter D.
Singleton, William R.	Strattan, John T.	Weirick, Jesse H.
Sinsabaugh, David	Stevens, Edgar	Wheeler, Henry W.
Smith, Andrew C.	Thomason, Samuel E.	Whitney, William H.
Smith, J. Dempster	Thompson, John B.	Wilkins, Charles A.
Smith, Percy G.	Tileston, William M.	Will, Henry
Sniffen, Culver C.	Tompkins, Robert B.	Will, Joseph B.
Spear, Charles W.	Towles, Henry O.	Wilson, Frank
Springer, Horace P.	Townsend, S., M. D.	Witherow, James M.
Squires, Frank D.	Transue, A., M. D.	Wolf, Simon
Stailey, John H.	Upton, J. Kendrick	Woodbury, Levi
Stanton, Irving W.	VanDerlip, Wm. L.	Wright, John H.
Steele, Thomas J.	Vandenburg, J. V. W.	Wright, William
Stewart, John A.	Vogt, John L.	Young, Nicholas E.
Stiles, Valentine N.	Wannall, Charles P.	Young, W. L. D.
Stockbridge, Virgil D.	Warren, Charles, M. D.	
Stoek, Jacob F.	Waugh, James E.	

Withdrawn.

Barr, Thomas F.

Small, William

Died.

Rosegrant, C. Burnett

Patterson, J. S., M. D.

WASHINGTON NAVAL CHAPTER, No. 6.

Meets on the first and third Tuesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

JAMES E. PORTER, M. E. H. P. ANDREW WOODS, E. K.

JOHN C. HOGAN, E. S. THOS. SOMERVILLE, Treasurer.

GEORGE W. WELLS, Secretary.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

ANDREW GLASS, P. H. P. and P. G. K.

Royal Arch Masons.

Brown, John	Chase, Isaac McK.	Goddard, W. W.
Browning, Horatio	DeMoll, Otto	Goodall, George W.
Collins, W. H.	Downs, John A.	Graham, John
Coomes, J. W.	Foster, Robert F.	Hancock, A.
Cooper, William A.	Gaddis, William	Hartley, Jos. H.
Cowan, William L.	Gaddis, George H.	Herrell, John E.
Cross, John W.	Gaddis, Adam	Hoeke, William
Cross, Thos. B., jr.	Glass, Andrew	Hogan, John C.

Holroyd, John	Schultz, George	Vermillion, James
Lomax, James C.	Schultz, John	Walter, William
McCathran, Donald	Skidmore, G. W.	Wells, Jos. M.
McFarlan, And.	Steele, John M.	Wells, George W.
Marton, D. W.	Somerville, Thomas	Wilkinson, William
Nachman, David	Stewart, Thomas	Williams, E.
O'Connor, Robert	St. John, W. H. H.	Woods, Andrew
Porter, James E.	Thompson, Thomas	

Withdrawn.

Anderson, Robert

Foos, John A.

*Dropped for N. P. D.*Bailey, William H.
Patton, D. H.Farrish, W. F.
Weber, Louis F. W.

McKim, S. A. H.

POTOMAC CHAPTER, No. 8, (GEORGETOWN, D. C.)

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

OFFICERS.

ROBERT W. HARDY, M. E. H. P. ALLEN WALL, E. K.
 B. S. HEDRICK, E. S. R. L. CROPLEY, Treasurer.
 W. W. WHEELER, Secretary.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

JAMES GOSZLER, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.
 JAMES KING, P. H. P. and P. D. G. H. P.
 JAMES G. SMITH, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.
 W. M. SMITH, P. H. P. and P. D. G. H. P.
 WILLIAM H. FAULKNER, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Alvord, H. J.	Dreyfuss, D.	Graves, John B.
Beall, John J.	Dodge, A. H.	Grimes, B. F.
Ball, James H.	Dowling, Thomas	Gross, H. A.
Blundon, Jos. A.	Dickson, Henry	Hartley, E. D.
Corsen, George E.	Denty, J. W.	Hood, John H.
Choppin, William	Edmonston, R. A.	Hedrick, B. S.
Cropley, R. L.	Faulkner, W. H.	Hardy, R. W.
Cox, James P.	Frey, Robert E.	Heiston, J. C.
Campbell, R. F.	Franck, Robert	Helm, Joseph
Davidson, John B.	Goszler, James	Johnson, Daniel

Johnson, Thomas
 Jones, A. J.
 Jones, F. W.
 King, James
 King, George W.
 Kaiser, John
 Laird, William W.
 Lawrence, J. V.
 Lawrence, D. C.
 Lambright, G. C.
 Lumsdon, J. W.
 Ludgate, William
 Magruder, H.
 Owen, John L.

Parker, J. C.
 Phillips, J. H.
 Prather, A. C.
 Pickrell, A. H.
 Palmer, Samuel C.
 Rhinehart, George
 Robinson, J. D.
 Rhor, Henry
 Rodgers, John E.
 Shekell, R. R.
 Shekell, C. F.
 Shekell, A. B.
 Sterne, William H.
 Shaw, John T.

Strauss, Henry
 Shinn, R. A.
 Stackpole, Thomas
 Storch, F. W.
 Sweeney, H. M.
 Seligson, H.
 Smith, James G.
 Smith, W. M.
 Taylor, W. H. S.
 Twiton, John B.
 Waters, George
 Wheatley, W. T.
 Wall, Allen
 Wheeler, W. W.

Reinstated.

Heiston, J. C.

Withdrawn.

Libbey, Joseph

Died.

Sothron, J. M.

LIST OF GRAND CHAPTERS *in correspondence with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, with the name and address of their Grand Secretaries.*

GRAND CHAPTER OF—	GRAND SECRETARIES.	ADDRESS.
Alabama.....	Daniel Sayre.....	Montgomery.
Arkansas.....	L. E. Barber.....	Little Rock.
California.....	Charles L. Wiggin.....	San Francisco.
Canada.....	T. Bird Harris.....	Hamilton.
Connecticut.....	J. H. Wheeler.....	Hartford.
Delaware.....	W. F. Godwin.....	Milford.
England and Wales.....	W. M. McIntosh.....	London.
Florida.....	John Hervey.....	Talahassee.
Georgia.....	J. E. Blackshear.....	Macon.
Illinois.....	J. H. Miles.....	Chicago.
Indiana.....	J. M. Bramwell.....	Indianapolis.
Iowa.....	W. B. Langridge.....	Muscatine.
Kansas.....	E. T. Carr.....	Leavenworth.
Kentucky.....	Philip Swigert.....	Frankfort.
Louisiana.....	J. C. Batchelor.....	New Orleans.
Maine.....	Ira Berry.....	Portland.
Maryland.....	W. A. Wentz.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts.....	Alfred F. Chapman.....	Boston.
Michigan.....	J. Eastman Johnson.....	Centreville.
Minnesota.....	W. S. Combs.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi.....	J. L. Power.....	Jackson.
Missouri.....	G. F. Gouley.....	St. Louis.
Nebraska.....	R. W. Furnas.....	Brownville.
New Hampshire.....	Abel Hutchins.....	Concord.
New Jersey.....	J. Woolverton, M. D.	Trenton.
New York.....	C. G. Fox.....	Buffalo.
North Carolina.....	T. B. Carr.....	Wilmington.
Nova Scotia.....	Jas. Gossip.....	Halifax
Ohio.....	Jas. Nesbit.....	Troy.
Oregon.....	R. P. Earhart.....	Salem.
Pennsylvania.....	Jno. Thomson.....	Philadelphia.
Rhode Island.....	Geo. H. Burnham.....	Providence.
Scotland.....	L. Mackersy.....	Edinburgh.
South Carolina.....	A. T. Smythe.....	Charleston.
Tennessee.....	J. Frizzell.....	Nashville.
Texas.....	R. Brewster.....	Houston.
Vermont.....	W. H. S. Whitcomb.....	Burlington.
Virginia.....	Dr. John Dove.....	Richmond.
West Virginia.....	O. S. Long.....	Wheeling.
Wisconsin.....	Wm. T. Palmer.....	Milwaukee.

ADDRESS OF M.: E.: G.: H.: PRIEST :

J. DANIELS,
Office and Residence, No. 1008 10th street, N. W.

ADDRESS OF R.: E.: G.: SECRETARY :

C. W. HANCOCK,
Office, Masonic Temple.
Residence, No. 507 7th street S. W.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Grand Chapter
OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

For the Year 1872.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.



WASHINGTON :
REPUBLICAN JOB OFFICE PRINT.
1873.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand R. A. Chapter

OF

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

For the Year 1872.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON :
REPUBLICAN JOB OFFICE PRINT,
1873.

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *May 14, 1872.*

The Semi-annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Masonic Temple on Tuesday evening, May 14, at 8 o'clock.

PRESENT.

M. E. Comp.	R. W. HARDY,	.....as	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp.	GEO. B. CLARK	.....as	<i>Grand King.</i>
"	" JNO. LOCKIE	.....as	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
"	" C. W. HANCOCK	.....	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
E.	" H. S. MERRILL	.....	<i>Grand Captain of Host.</i>
"	" L. G. STEPHENS	.....	<i>Grand Visitor and Lec.</i>
"	" J. E. PORTER	.....	<i>Grand Prin. Sojourner.</i>
"	" A. BUCHLY	.....	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
"	" W. H. EARLE	.....	<i>Grand Master 3d Vail.</i>
"	" SAML. BAXTER	.....as	<i>Grand Master 2d Vail.</i>
"	" J. C. ALLEN	.....as	<i>Grand Master 1st Vail.</i>
"	" L. STODDARD	.....	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

Past Grand High Priest J. Lockie.

Past Deputy Grand High Priest L. G. Stephens.

Past Grand Kings A. Glass, C. W. Hancock.

Past Grand Secretary N. D. Larnier.

Representatives and Past High Priests from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

The reading of the minutes of the Annual Convocation was dispensed with, they having been printed in the last proceedings.

The following communications were read :

WASHINGTON, D. C., *7th Day, 5th Mo., A. I. 2402.*

SIR: At a stated Convocation of Washington Naval R. A. C., No. 6, held this evening, Geo. W. Wells was elected Scribe, and Jos. F. Baner Secretary.

Fraternally, &c.,

GEO. W. WELLS, *Sec. pro tem.*

CHAS. W. HANCOCK, Esq.,

Grand Secretary, Grand Chapter of the D. C.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

LAFAYETTE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER, No. 5,
WASHINGTON, D. C., 5th Day, 12th Mo., A. S. 1. 2401.

To the M. E. Grand R. A. Chapter of the D. C.:

At the stated Convocation of this Chapter, held on the 2d instant, M. E. H. P. Daniel Spaulding Jones, Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter, duly and legally installed M. E. Companions W. H. Earle, Grand M. of 8d V., and Allan Wall, G. M. 2d V. in the Grand R. A. Chapter of D. C., in accordance with the request of the G. H. P.

Attest:

JNO. EDW. MASON, *Secretary*.

The report of the Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address, which was laid over at the Annual Convocation, was read and adopted.

The following amendment, offered by Comp. Stephens at the Annual Convocation, was adopted: Amend art. 2, sec. 1, by inserting after the words "and Grand Janitor," "the first four of whom must be Present or Past High Priests."

Also, the following, offered by Comp. Lerner at the Annual Convocation: To sec. 1 of art. 17 add the words, "but no Companion shall be eligible to the office of High Priest who has not served either as King or Scribe of a Chapter."

On motion, the following appropriations were made: \$10 for postage; \$50 to Masonic Hall Association, for rent to May 1, 1872; \$7.50 to Philp & Solomons, for stationery; \$3.45 to B. F. French, for stationery; \$4.50 to Republican Job Office, for printing letter-heads, and \$34.91 to pay proportion of Grand Chapter for repairs in Grand Secretary's office.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was authorized to have 250 copies of the Grand Constitution, with amendments, printed.

Comp. Buchly submitted the following questions; which, on his motion, were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence:

Can objections be legally entertained against an applicant for the Capitular degrees of Masonry *previous to a ballot*? If so, *what* is the status of the applicant? and what disposition should be made of the fee accompanying the application?

No further business appearing, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

C. W. HANCOCK, *Grand Secretary*.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 12, 1872.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Masonic Temple at 7 o'clock P. M.

PRESENT.

Comp. J. DANIELS.....	M. E. G. H. Priest.
" A. T. LONGLEY.....	R. E. Dep. G. H. Priest.
" R. W. HARDY.....	R. E. Grand King
" D. S. JONES.....	R. E. Grand Scribe.
" C. W. HANCOCK.....	R. E. Grand Secretary.
" C. SMITH.....	R. E. Grand Treasurer.
" H. S. MERRILL.....	E. Captain of Host.
" L. G. STEPHENS.....	E. Grand Vis. and Lecturer.
" J. E. PORTER.....	E. Grand Prin. Sojourner.
" P. S. CRAIG.....	as E. Grand R. A. Captain.
" W. H. EARLE.....	E. Grand Master 3d Vail.
" ALLAN WALL.....	E. Grand Master 2d Vail.
" J. S. MCCOY.....	E. Grand Master 1st Vail.
" L. STODDARD.....	Grand Janitor.

Past Grand High Priests J. E. F. Holmead, J. G. Smith and J. Lockie.

Past Deputy Grand High Priests W. Morris Smith and L. G. Stephens.

Past Grand Kings A. Glass and C. W. Hancock.

Past Grand Scribe E. B. McGrotty.

Past Grand Secretary N. D. Larnier.

Representatives and Past High Priests from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, and the proceedings of the Semi-Annual Convocation read and approved.

The M. E. Grand High Priest then delivered the following address:

COMPANIONS: Twelve months have rolled away into the abyss of oblivion since, by your grateful suffrages, I was elevated to this high and responsible position in the Grand East, and Masonic usage, as well as the interest of the craft, require that I should render to you an account of my stewardship, and make such suggestions and recommendations as in my judgment will tend to correct the errors of the past, (if any there be,) and promote the best interests of that branch of our noble institution under our paternal care.

Happily for me, as well as for you, my Companions, nothing has occurred during the past year to mar our peace, disturb our harmony, interrupt our prosperity, or call for censure or reproach. It is especially gratifying to me to be able to say that peace, harmony, and uninterrupted prosperity prevail throughout the entire jurisdiction; and I am happy to say, also, that the labor of the Companions in the several Chapters is characterized

by that fraternal regard, that friendship and fervency and zeal which alone belong to those who would appropriate to themselves the noble name of Mason. I have been extremely fortunate in not having been called upon to exercise the powers and prerogatives vested in me as your presiding officer, save perhaps in the granting of a dispensation to allow a Chapter to hold a convocation at a different time than that named in their by-laws, for reasons perfectly satisfactory, and which I do not deem of sufficient importance to require a report to this Grand body.

Since our last Annual Convocation I have appointed Most Excellent Companion John Y. Murry, of Ripley, Mississippi, Representative of this Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of the State of Mississippi, and respectfully request favorable action thereon.

My attention has been called to the fact, that there is constantly a deficit in our treasury, and that the Treasurer is obliged annually to borrow money to defray the necessary expenses of the Grand Chapter. This should not be so. It is well understood by all that the Grand Chapter has no source of revenue except that which is derived from the Subordinate Chapters. This being the case, I respectfully suggest whether it would not be better to increase the dues of the Subordinate Chapters by an amendment to the constitution, if necessary, sufficiently to produce a sufficient revenue to defray the necessary expenses of the Grand Chapter, rather than pay interest on money, and have our records show to the world, from year to year, that we are constantly compelled to borrow money to liquidate our obligations.

Companions : I have no other recommendations to make, save the admonition to the members of this Grand Chapter who are officers in the Subordinate Chapters, to guard well the entrance to the Tabernacle. The large number dropped from the rolls in some of the Chapters, while it is not sufficient to interfere with the prosperity of the Chapters, it nevertheless shows that some have been permitted to enter who have been attracted to the spot either by idle curiosity or other improper motives ; and having once passed the vails and been permitted to engage with us in one of the most glorious works in which it was ever the privilege of man to engage, their zeal, if they ever had any, dies at the threshold. They become drones in the hive, and have no more appreciation of symbolism of the *Holy Royal Arch* than the blind dog-fish in the Mammoth Cave has of the beauties and brilliancy of the noonday sun ; and, my Companions, may it not be the case with us all, that in our desire to keep pace with the rapid growth of Masonry, we, to some extent, lose sight of the necessity of scrutinizing with jealous eye the material with which we build ; for no man who is fit to be a Mason, and who properly appreciates the work in which he is engaged, will, under ordinary circumstances, allow his name to be dropped from the rolls of the craft, and help swell the ranks of those nondescripts—unaffiliated Masons. The fear is not that we shall build too slow, but that the work and material will be such as will not stand the test of the storm of proscription and persecu-

tion which is sure, sooner or later, to descend and beat upon our Temple.

Ours is not like the visible Temple of Solomon, of Apollo, of Curnas, or the pyramids of Egypt, which were but the monuments of the idolatry of the Oriental nations of the earth, or the mausoleums for the repose of the kingly dead. It is invisible and imperishable; its foundations are laid deep in the human soul, and extend throughout the length and breadth of the earth, its pyramidal dome reaching to the throne of the Eternal. And so must our industry and zeal be proved by works which are imperishable and everlasting, so that when we vanish from the eye of mortals, our good deeds and kind words may be emblazoned upon the glittering dome of our sacred temple to light up the pathway of generations yet unborn.

And now, my Companions, as I am about to return to you the sacred trust so generously committed to my care, permit me to tender to you my sincere thanks for the high honor conferred upon me, and also for the uniform kindness and respect shown me on all occasions. And as I throw off and lay aside the emblems of authority and distinction, and again strike hands with you in the more laborious work of the Royal Craft, let me indulge the hope, that in the future, as in the past, our labors may be tempered with that sense of justice, propriety, and fraternal regard that ever actuate a true and genuine Mason of the Royal Arch.

Finally, Companions, let us join in returning thanks to the great Giver of all good for the many blessings bestowed upon us during the past Masonic year, and invoke His aid in the discharge of all the duties of life, that whatever we do, whether in the Lodge, in the Chapter, or in the world at large, may be done with an eye single to the approbation of the *Great I Am*.

On motion of Past Grand High Priest J. E. F. Holmead, that portion of the address in reference to dues was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Grand Treasurer and High Priests of the several Chapters, to report at the Semi-Annual Convocation in May.

A petition was presented from a number of Companions, praying that a charter be issued empowering them to open and hold a regular Chapter in the city of Washington, to be called Mount Horeb Chapter, with Comp. Wm. R. Singleton as M.: E.: High Priest, Comp. Geo. A. Abbott E.: King, and George Rhinehart E.: Scribe; but it being informal, no action was taken.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the questions of Comp. Buchly, submitted at the May Convocation, made the following report; which was adopted:

At the last semi-annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter the following paper was submitted and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with instructions to report at this Convocation:

"Can objections be legally entertained against an applicant for the Capitular degrees of Masonry previous to a ballot? If so, what is the status of the applicant? and what disposition should be made of the fee accompanying the application?"

1st. Your committee hold that at any stage of the proceedings, a Companion, who is a member of the Chapter and in good standing, has the right to object to the admission or advancement of an applicant, and that his objection, when offered, is legal; and the Chapter having nothing to do with the sufficiency of the Companion's reasons, the Brother objected to cannot be received or advanced until the objection is by the Companion offering it withdrawn, or his membership with the Chapter has ceased. Whether or not, in many, and indeed a majority of instances, the objection or protest is the preferable way for a Companion to exercise his legal right to prevent the admission of a Brother into his Chapter who for any reason he deems unworthy, is a question not before your committee, and therefore they have no opinion to offer in regard to the same.

2d. "What is the status of the applicant" against whose admission an objection has been offered? The petition having been received and referred, is the property of the Chapter, and cannot be withdrawn. Neither can the Brother be admitted or advanced so long as the objection of a Companion who is a member and in good standing lies. The status of the applicant objected to therefore seems to be simply this: His petition is pending before a Chapter, which prevents him petitioning anywhere else; and his admission having been objected to, he cannot be admitted so long as the objection remains.

3d. "What disposition should be made of the fee accompanying the application?" after an objection to the admission of an applicant has been offered. This inquiry does not involve any principle of Masonic law, but seems rather to be simply a question of Masonic equity. The fee is paid as the price of the degrees; and if a Chapter, for any reason whatever, refuses to confer the same, the fee is certainly not their property, and should therefore be returned to the applicant.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD,
JAS. G. SMITH,
JOHN LOCKIE.

Comp. Larner, from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted the following report; which was adopted—that portion of the report referring to the report of the Committee on Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana having first been read:

Report on Foreign Correspondence.

To the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia:

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence would respectfully report that the proceedings of the following Grand Chapters have been received and reviewed during the past year, viz:

Alabama.....	1871	Minnesota.....	1872
Arkansas.....	1871	Michigan.....	1872
Connecticut.....	1872	New York.....	1872
California.....	1872	New Jersey.....	1872
Delaware.....	1872	Nova Scotia.....	1871
Florida.....	1871	North Carolina.....	1872
Georgia.....	1872	Nebraska.....	1871
Iowa.....	1871	Oregon.....	1872
Illinois.....	1871	Pennsylvania.....	1871
Louisiana.....	1872	Scotland.....	1871-1872
Maryland.....	1871	Tennessee.....	1871
Mississippi.....	1872	Virginia.....	1871
Missouri.....	1871	Vermont.....	1872
Massachusetts.....	1871	West Virginia.....	1871
Maine.....	1872		

ALABAMA.

The forty-fifth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in the city of Montgomery, December 5, 1871, M. E. Comp. Henry Clay Armstrong presiding, with representatives from fifty-one Chapters present.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, in which he says :

"In the course of events, the opportunity is again ours to realize, in its fullness, the truth of the inspired utterance, 'How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.'

"Very precious are the experiences of the past, as its recollections come to us freighted with kind and fraternal greetings, and harmonious endeavors in the prosecution of the one purpose of our assembling—the good of our Order. Remotely separated as are our dwelling places; diverse and distinct as are our ordinary pursuits, and the hopes and aims and aspirations of our lives, there is a *unity* that belongs to us as Masons. The golden chain, whose links are "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth," extends from heart to heart, and we thus receive and transmit continually the current of genuine charity and sympathy.

"Throughout our whole country society presents distractions to the most encouraging view; and complaints of wide-spread demoralization, born of the doubts and temptations, the trials and difficulties of the times through which we are passing, meet us on every hand; but there is not, I trust, nor will there be, cause to believe that our bond of union is relaxed, or that we have suffered our hitherto high standard of moral purity and excellence to be lowered.

"If it be indeed true that we have fallen upon evil times; that men generally are less mindful of their obligations than formerly; that confidence is being destroyed, and the bonds of society relaxed, be ours the mission to so cleave to the tenets of our Order, and so illustrate them in our daily walk and conversation, as to severally furnish, in the sphere of our influence, an effectual antidote to this degeneracy. Thus may we exemplify the teachings of Masonry, and thus contribute, in our day and generation, to the strength and beauty and usefulness of the institution."

On the 20th of January, 1871, the Grand Chapter of Alabama sustained a serious loss in the death of Comp. William P. Chilton, Past Grand High Priest. Comp. C. was one whose reputation as a high-minded, zealous and intelligent Mason was not confined to the narrow limits of his own State, but was known to most of our jurisdictions. We feel confident

that we express the sentiments of the members of our Grand Chapter when we say that we deeply sympathize with the Grand Chapter of Alabama in her affliction. The Grand High Priest, in making the announcement of his death to the Grand Chapter, says :

"This official announcement of the death of our distinguished Companion is but a re-utterance of intelligence which has already carried sorrow throughout the bounds of this jurisdiction. A great loss has befallen us ; and it has come, not to us as Masons only, but to society and to the State as well. Of the many excellencies of our deceased Companion, of his strong character, his upright walk, his purity of life, I may not here attempt a portrayal. He was known to you as the intellectual peer of the foremost in the State, and one in whose heart dwelt every manly sentiment, and every noble, tender and generous impulse. To Masonry he was a pillar of strength. Profoundly learned in the symbols of our Order, he ever looked to the truths and virtues symbolized ; and to the inculcation and practice of these truths he gave the energies of his great intellect, through the years of a long and useful life. It becomes us to cherish his memory, and to imitate his virtues, that our lives may be as was his life—pure and unselfish—and our deaths as triumphant as was his death."

The following decisions were reported by the Grand High Priest as having been made by him during the year :

"In a case presented, I held that a Companion who claimed to have been a member of a Chapter in this jurisdiction which had forfeited its charter, and who further claimed that a dimit had been voted him before such forfeiture, but for some cause never issued, might upon proof made of these facts affiliate with another Chapter, although his name does not appear upon the returns of the former Chapter on file with the Grand Secretary, and that the certificates of the last H. P., Sec., and R. A. C. of the discontinued Chapter might be evidence sufficient.

"In response to questions propounded to me by a Companion, *held*, that although a ballot on petition for the Chapter degrees has been had without objections, and the Chapter closed, a further ballot may be required at any time by a member.—(*Chapter Code*, p. 40, sec. 10.)

"On the second application for the Chapter degrees by a rejected applicant, it is not required that every Companion present at the first balloting should be present at the second ; nor is it incumbent on the H. P. to give special notice of such second application.

"The petition being presented at a regular convocation and read, is notice that a second ballot will be taken, and the absence of a member when the time for the second balloting arrives, who was present at the first, is not sufficient cause for postponement. Yet, if a member notifies the H. P. that he desires to be present at such balloting, but that he cannot be present at the convocation at which it would occur in order, it would be the duty of the H. P. to respect such notice, and by postponing afford the Companion an opportunity to exercise his right to 'black ball' the applicant, if he desires so to do."

From the remarks of the Grand High Priest and other Companions, we are led to infer that there is a great lack of uniformity in work throughout the jurisdiction ; so much so as to induce the Grand Chapter to refer the subject to the Committee on Work for consideration, which committee subsequently reported the following plan as the one most likely to accomplish the desired end ; which was adopted :

"1. That the Grand High Priest, during the term of his office, and his successors in like manner, shall be expected to visit as many subordinate Chapters as he may be able to do, not exceeding one-fourth of the Chapters, and instruct them in the work and lectures, and in any other respect that the circumstances of the case may require.

"2. That the Grand High Priest shall also be, and he is hereby, empowered to authorize any member of the Committee on Work to perform a like service in any special case or cases, when the necessities of a Chapter or Chapters may require it."

Some good may be accomplished by this means, but we take the liberty of suggesting to our Companions that more good would be accomplished, and the desired end much more readily obtained, by pursuing the course adopted by nearly all the other Grand Chapters, viz: the appointment of a Grand Lecturer, whose duty it shall be to make frequent visits to the various Chapters, and instruct them in the work. It is not exactly fair to expect the Grand High Priest to unite the duties of his office with the duties of the Grand Lecturer.

The Grand Secretary was directed to procure a new set of jewels and collars for the officers of the Grand Chapter. We hope the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia will do likewise.

The report on Foreign Correspondence, which is very full and interesting, was written by Comp. P. J. Pillans, in which he reviews the proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Chapters—ours for 1870 being among the number—to which he devotes seventeen pages.

Discussing, in his review of Arkansas, the status of a Companion who had been suspended by his Lodge, and afterwards re-instated, he expresses the following sentiments, in which we fully concur:

"Your committee agree with the committee of Masonic law and usage, in their conclusion that the high priest of a chapter had a right to disregard the notice of a Blue Lodge which had re-instated a brother suspended previously for *gross unmasonic conduct*, but for different reasons. If we thought that a notice officially made by a Lodge to a Chapter that a brother previously suspended had been restored to membership, re-instated the brother, also a Companion, to his stand in his Chapter, we believe that we would take issue. But we grant that suspension by a Lodge for cause, *ipso facto*, also suspended in the Chapter; but then after the Companion is so suspended, how shall he be restored? Can any action of a Lodge re-instate in the Chapter? Having lost his membership in the chapter, will it be contended that he is to have it returned by a vote of a Lodge? In the case reported, the brother was never constitutionally restored to membership in his Lodge, and the High Priest properly treated him not only as suspended from his Chapter, but we presume also from Masonic intercourse. Had he been properly restored to his Lodge, would he have been, by the vote of the Lodge, made to his Chapter anything more than an unaffiliated R. A. Mason? Would he not simply have been a R. A. Mason restored to good standing as such? For how could any action of his Lodge operate to restore him to membership in the Chapter, when once its doors had been closed to him."

In his review of Maine, he quotes Companion Drummond's strictures on the Grand Chapter of Kentucky for severing its connection with the General Grand Chapter, and comments as follows:

"But whence did the General Grand Chapter derive its powers? From those certainly who constituted it—State Grand Chapters. Will, it then, be contended that the General Grand Chapter is the parent of these, its parents? And if not of them, of what others? For as soon as any Grand Chapter is constituted and admitted, if you please, into its family, and pronounced the peer of these first, is it not entitled to all the powers and privileges of these first parents of the General Grand Chapter? But there are other questions which thrust themselves forward in the consideration of this subject. Is not Capitular Masonry as safe in the keeping of the several Grand Chapters as in that of the General Grand Chapter? I presume that it will not be asserted that a supervisory General Grand Body is necessary to prevent the several State Grand Chapters from erring. Then, if this proposition be true, why this inordinate desire to badger the few Grand Chapters who do not constitute a part of the General Grand Chapter into accepting of position within it? What are the purposes for which the General Grand Chapter was instituted, and what the ability and powers of this body for their accomplishment? We find discontent at home, then; we find on the one hand a strong desire to give to this General Grand Body more power to make it useful, and on the other hand a serious apprehension that this will in the end be accomplished. If this power be granted, then the Grand Chapters are at the mercy of this General Grand Chapter; and if they be not granted, it is generally conceded that it is powerless for any good. Uniformity of ritual and work was expected of its existence, but the resolution once adopted by it recommending to the several Grand Chapters to seek for the true work and use it, demonstrates its utter inutility in this particular; and if this superior Grand Body, which ought to be, and is supposed to be, composed of the brightest and best of the Royal Arch Masons in the land, cannot find this which they, the assembled wisdom of Royal Arch Masonry, ought most certainly to be possessed of, then what other good is to be expected of it? We do not desire to be captious or querulous in relation to this subject, but we infinitely prefer peace to discord. For years harmony characterized our Grand Chapter, and prosperity marked its progress; but now there is this harassing question constantly thrust upon its consideration, disturbing its peace and happiness. We do not know that it matters much to the quiet man whether he escaped from a house where discord reigned through a window or a door, nor do we suppose he could readily be induced to enter only to get out by the usual way."

The questions here propounded are important, and others, besides Comp. Pillans, would like to have a satisfactory answer to them. (See report on Maine for Comp. Drummond's reply.)

Comp. Henry Clay Armstrong, of Notasulga, was reelected Grand High Priest.

Comp. Daniel Sayre, of Montgomery, was reelected Grand Secretary. Number of Chapters, 54. Number of R. A. Masons, 1,909.

ARKANSAS.

The Twenty-second Annual Convocation was held in the city of Little Rock, November 2, 1871, M. E. E. H. English, Grand High Priest, presiding. Twenty-two Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, which is quite lengthy and very interesting. He confines himself principally to giving an account of his visit to Baltimore to attend the session of the General

Grand Chapter, which he does in a very pleasing manner. The only official acts he reports are the granting of dispensations to five new Chapters in the State, which were regularly chartered at this convocation. We extract the following from the address of Comp. English:

"Whether we be asleep or awake, toiling or at rest, time, like an ever-flowing river, rushing onward to the sea, bears us unceasingly along its rapid current to that ocean which has no shores, leaving other generations to follow us, with their hopes and fortunes freighted on crafts as frail as ours, along the same stream to the same boundless sea. But once in the annals of time, speaking after the observations of the natural eye, did the sun stand still in the midst of heaven, and hasten not to go down for a day—but once did the moon pause over the valley of Ajalon.

"In order to accomplish the useful purposes for which we were sent into this life we have much to learn and much to do, and the moments allotted to us to perform our work, though in the wisdom of Providence sufficient, are comparatively few and fleeting. We are therefore admonished to toil while it is day.

"The life of a Royal Arch Mason is aptly likened to a journey; and the annual convocations of the representatives of the Royal Craft are regarded as resting points in that journey, from which we look back over the way and inspect and review all that has been accomplished, and contemplate that which is yet to be achieved in the travels and toils of the future.

"After the passage of another year, fleeting as the weaver's shuttle, but fraught, nevertheless, with momentous human events, we have been again permitted, by Divine Providence, to convene at an annual resting point in our journey, and first of all to return thanks to Him who has thus far brought us safely on our way.

"During the year some of our Companions fell by the way, and the winds of autumn now sigh over their silent resting places. If while living they finished the work assigned them by the Master to do, it is well. If they neglected to accomplish the work which he allotted them, it will remain unfinished forever, for there is no work or device in the grave!

"Let us who survive look back from this point, and inquire whether we have faithfully performed the work apportioned to us during the year that has just passed; for if we have neglected our tasks, or postponed them under the delusion that they may be crowded in with the labors apportioned to another year, they may never be finished, because to us that year may never be. It is well, however, to hasten to perform in the future that which has been neglected in the past.

"But there are works in the Masonic as well as in the business life, which, if omitted at the proper time, cannot be afterward beneficially performed.

"If in the spring-time the farmer neglects to plow and to sow, when the harvest time comes, and when it is too late to sow, his fields will be vacant and his barn empty, while plenty will reward the toil of his wiser neighbor.

"If education, literary or Masonic, be neglected in youth and in early manhood, when the mind is vigorous and the memory retentive, it cannot be acquired in advanced age, 'when those that look out of the windows be darkened, and the grinders cease because they are few,' etc.

"A traveler stricken down by the way-side, wounded, bruised, and famishing, implored one who was passing to bring him a cup of water. The passer, prompted for the moment by the better feelings of humanity, hastened off to a neighboring well to procure the water; but meeting with idlers there he loitered away the time. Finally, remembering the forgotten errand, he returned with the cup of water; but lo! he was too late.

While he delayed the wounded man, with parched and shriveled lips, had expired, and the expression of his pale and lifeless face admonished the passer of his neglect of duty.

"When the cold winds of winter sweep through an open house, and cause the widow and the orphan to shiver, they cannot wait until the summer for fuel and for clothing.

"When recently the great city of Chicago, sitting like a beautiful queen upon the shore of an inland sea, bathing her feet in its waters, her brow crowned with the palm of commerce, and her lap filled with plenty, was suddenly overwhelmed by a terrible fire, more than ten thousand of her houses reduced to ashes, and a hundred thousand of her horror-stricken people driven before the flames, roofless and destitute, into the streets and highways, the hearts of all the civilized people of the globe, wherever the electric wires flashed the dreadful news, were moved with compassion, and promptly over every sea, and along every river and railway, money, food, and clothing were sent to the relief of the sufferers.

"I have observed with pleasure that the Masons, as individuals as well as in their associations, have been active in this noble work of relief.

"How cold and how unnatural it would have been had the world looked calmly on, and said, wait until the winter has passed and the spring has come, and then we will see what can be done for the sufferers.

"Alas! before then many of the destitute would have been housed and sheltered from the heartless world in their graves.

"If we, my Companions, have not all done our duty toward these suffering people, let us hasten to finish the good work. It is not yet too late."

Instead of appropriating one cent per annum for each R. : A. : Mason on the rolls of its constituent Chapters for the use of the General Grand Chapter, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter pay annually, for the next three years, the sum of twenty-five dollars towards the expenses of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and that the Grand Treasurer of this Grand Chapter remit the same to the General Grand Secretary of said General Grand Chapter."

The adoption of the following resolution is a move in the right direction, and one which we trust our Grand Chapter will imitate in its youthful days, when the data can be easily obtained:

"Resolved, That a committee, consisting of Comps. L. E. Barber, E. H. English, and W. D. Blocher, be appointed by this Grand Chapter to prepare a digest of all Masonic regulations and decisions of this Grand Chapter, as well as the Constitution and regulations of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and have them printed for the use of the Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction, and that one copy be furnished to each of the Subordinate Chapters; and that each Subordinate Chapter be required to pay five dollars for printing the same."

We hope Comp. Barber will not forget us when this book is published.

For non-payment of dues the edicts of the Grand Chapter were "fully enforced" on seven Chapters. What the edicts are the proceedings do

not tell us, but we suppose the charters were withdrawn. We judge, from the report of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations, that a great many of the Chapters are not in a very flourishing condition, as they say:

"Your committee finds, after examining the reports of the Grand Secretary, that many Chapters have been in arrears for many years, contrary to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter."

There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

Comp. English, having declined a reelection, Comp. G. A. Donnelly, of Searcy, was elected Grand High Priest, and Comp. Luke E. Barber, of Little Rock, was reelected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters 61, out of which only 38 made returns to Grand Chapter. Number of R. A. Masons, 1,561.

CONNECTICUT.

The volume received from this Grand Chapter contains the proceedings of the Semi-Annual Convocation held November 1, 1871, and of the Annual Convocation held May 7, 1872. The Semi-Annual was held in New Britain and the annual in Hartford. At both of these Convocations, M. E. Comp. Charles W. Stearns, Grand High Priest, presided. Thirty Chapters were represented at the Semi-Annual, and thirty-one at the Annual Convocation.

No business of general interest was transacted at either of the Convocations. The time of the Semi-Annual was mostly spent in witnessing an exemplification of the various degrees by Giddings Chapter.

At the Annual Convocation the Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, in which he says :

"**EXCELLÉNT COMPANIONS** : 'Agreeable to an ancient Masonic custom,' we are again assembled in our official capacity as Royal Arch Masons ; again assembled around our common altar to counsel with each other for the good of this branch of our beloved Order.

"In thus assembling, we are forcibly reminded that the swift finger of time has marked the passage of another year. Thus the sands of life run ; thus we reach these mile-stones in our journey to the presence of our Grand High Priest above—pausing to offer oblations of gratitude for the manifold favors which have contributed, in so great a measure, to render our experience of the past a pleasure rather than a burden.

"With hand joined to hand, and heart linked to heart, have we bowed ourselves in the presence of Him who sitteth between the Cherubims ; returned our grateful thanks for the life that has been spared us, for the health we have enjoyed, and for the many comforts with which we have been surrounded since last we met and exchanged our fraternal greetings.

"With a full knowledge of our own weakness have we sought assistance, counsel and guidance in the business upon which we are about to enter.

"I am happy indeed to welcome so many, who, having performed their pilgrimage to this sacred temple, are prepared, I trust, to faithfully perform the duties which may be imposed upon them, adhering with fidelity

to the landmarks of our fathers ; and while we mingle together in this fraternal manner, may the same spirit of brotherly love animate each heart, and prevail in all our counsels. If any action be required at our hands, let it be attended with due deliberation and prudence ; if we review the past, let it be done with candor ; if we draw designs upon the trestle-board for our future guidance, let them be such as will bear the closest scrutiny and the test of the 'Overseer's square.' "

In giving an account of the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, he remarks :

" When I say to you that thirty Grand Chapters were there represented, I can offer you no higher or more conclusive evidence to substantiate the fact that that body—which has so long been subjected to ridicule and abuse from those who may have misjudged it in its intents and purposes—stands to day upon the highest pinnacle of fame ; to-day it is recognized as a power, and its influence is being felt throughout the civilized world."

A resolution was adopted requiring the Chapters in the State to conform to the ritual as adopted by the General Grand Chapter.

Representatives from various State Grand Chapters presented their commissions, and were received in due form.

A resolution was adopted requiring the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence "to furnish the Grand Secretary with his report in sufficient time to admit of the same being printed before the Annual Convocation."

This is a good plan, and should be adopted by all Grand Chapters.

A committee was appointed "to devise some plan for meeting more fully the deficiency which exists in our [their] system of visitation and inspection."

The tribute of one cent for each Royal Arch Mason on the rolls in the jurisdiction was voted the General Grand Chapter.

Charters were voted for the organization of three new Chapters.

The report on Correspondence was presented by Comp. Luke A. Lockwood, P. G. High Priest, in which he reviews the proceedings of twenty-seven State Grand Chapters, and the General Grand Chapter. The District of Columbia is *not* in the list.

Comp. Lockwood does not say much in the way of comments, but confines his labors principally to skimming the *cream* from the proceedings of the State Grand Chapters.

Under the head of Ohio, he says :

"The following report of Committee on Jurisprudence was agreed to :

" *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, a Master Mason who has become maimed in person is not thereby prevented from receiving the degrees conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter.' "

He comments on this action as follows :

" We are glad to know this, for if we ever visit Ohio again, and a Royal Arch Mason without arms shall offer his foot in welcome, we can recip-

rocate the warm pressure, and safely infer that he has been duly exalted by a Chapter, which is its own and sole judge of the necessary physical qualifications of its candidates. Again, how deeply we all must sympathize with *legless, weary sojourners*. Do they *wade* streams or pass bridges in Ohio? The idea of the lame, the halt and the blind rebuilding the House of the Lord! It might be consistent, for they ought to be willing to work without the hope of fee or reward. Please reconsider. The subject grows, but lost legs, hands, arms and feet will not."

We think Comp. Lockwood has here, in very few words, completely annihilated the new idea of the "lame, the halt and the blind" being proper ones to engage in the "rebuilding."

Under the head of the General Grand Chapter, he takes occasion to argue against the position assumed by Comp. Pike before the General Grand Chapter, as to the correct "G. O. W.," and finds fault at the "precipitation of this discussion upon the General Grand Chapter without notice," and pronounces the act as an attempted "*assassination* of the Royal Arch, of the York Rite, (we use the word advisedly.)" We do not allude to this for the purpose of discussing the matters referred to, nor can we agree with him that such was Comp. Pike's motive, but simply to give notice to our Companions that the issue has been made with Comp. Pike, and that they may look forward to an interesting discussion of this subject.

Comp. William Wallace Lee, of West Meriden, was elected Grand High Priest, Comp. Jos. K. Wheeler, of Hartford, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

No. of Chapters, 31; No. of R.: A.: Masons, 4,019.

CALIFORNIA.

The Eighteenth Annual Convocation was held in the city of San Francisco on the 9th of April, 1873; M.: E.: Comp. James L. English, Grand High Priest, presided, with representatives present from thirty-five Chapters.

Comp. English, in his address, says:

"The circumstances under which we assemble at this, our Annual Convocation, are certainly most propitious. Peace and prosperity prevail throughout the land, and harmony and fraternity throughout our jurisdiction. During the past year nothing whatever has occurred to mar in the slightest degree that perfect accord which should ever exist amongst Companions, but all seem actuated by the noble spirit of emulation as to who shall best work and best agree."

He reports the loss to the Grand Chapter, by the defalcation of its late Grand Secretary, to be \$7,172 31. This was a heavy blow to the Grand Chapter.

He answered various questions that had been submitted to him during

the year from Subordinate Chapters, but deemed none of them of sufficient importance to report to the Grand Chapter.

On the substitute question he says :

“The General Grand Chapter also provided that substitutes in the Royal Arch degree *may* be authorized by Grand Chapters ; but at the same time they earnestly urge Subordinate Chapters to use full classes of actual candidates, except in cases of emergency. Under this permission it is for this Grand Chapter to determine whether or not the subordinates in this jurisdiction shall be authorized to use substitutes. It is much to be regretted that Webb and his associates succeeded in establishing the present Chapter system of the United States, it being an entire innovation upon the body of Masonry as previously constituted ; but that system has been adopted, not only by the Grand Chapters which originally formed the General Grand Chapter, but also, I believe, by those which did not acknowledge its authority. That the genius of the institution as now taught requires a full class of actual candidates, there can be no question. The only object in making use of substitutes is to hasten the advancement of the actual candidates ; and it may well be questioned whether such employment, instead of impressing the candidates favorably with the sublimity of the work in which they are engaged, has not directly the effect of detracting from the exalted character of the degree. What is it to wait weeks, months, or even years for the degree ? The fact that it is difficult to be obtained—that time and preparation are necessary, will only enhance its value—whilst hastening its reception, by the use of means foreign to its teachings, is only calculated to cheapen it. If you should determine to allow the use of substitutes in any case, I would respectfully recommend that provision be made that they shall only be used upon a dispensation being obtained therefor from the Grand High Priest. The General Grand Chapter earnestly urges the use of full classes of actual candidates, except in cases of emergency ; and experience has taught us all that subordinates are too apt to conceive every case where a candidate is ready for a degree, to be one of emergency, and if they are to be the judges, the use of substitutes will be unrestricted. If, however, a dispensation shall be required, the Grand High Priest can determine, from all the facts and circumstances which it will be necessary to lay before him, whether the case is one calling for the exercise of his dispensing power.”

This portion of the address was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who subsequently submitted the following report, which was adopted :

“Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred that portion of the M. E. Grand High Priest’s address relating to the use of substitutes in the ceremony of exaltation, beg leave to report—

“That they have carefully considered and fully recognized the importance of the subject matter so referred. That they acknowledge the decision of the General Grand Chapter, that ‘the use of substitutes is not a violation of the ritual and installation charges,’ as conclusive and binding ; and that the recommendation for the use of ‘full classes of actual candidates,’ is fully endorsed, and is in accordance with the custom which has ever prevailed in this jurisdiction. But while thus accepting the decision and endorsing the recommendation, your committee agree with the M. E. Grand High Priest that some safeguard should be provided whereby the evils referred to by him may be prevented, and at the same time afford a definite rule for the guidance of the Chapters of this State.

Without further comment, therefore, your committee submit the following resolutions, and recommend their adoption :

“Resolved, That the use of substitutes shall not be permitted for purposes of rapid advancement, or for accommodation merely, but only when the Council of the Chapter, in the exercise of a sound discretion, shall be satisfied that the good of Royal Arch Masonry will be promoted thereby.

“Resolved, That the use of more than one substitute at a time is prohibited, unless the dispensation of the Grand High Priest, permitting such use, be first procured ; said dispensation to be issued only for good cause shown, and upon a petition signed by a majority of the Council of the Chapter, asking such dispensation.”

This sort of legislation is becoming quite popular in some quarters, and we would like to have some one explain to us how a Grand Chapter which has heretofore prohibited, from a conscientious conviction that it was wrong, the use of substitutes, can pass such resolutions. What has been done to make it right to use *one* substitute ? Has our ritual been changed to accommodate all parties, whether they wish to use one or two ? We trust this half-way legislation will cease. If California believes it is proper to use substitutes, why does she not repeal her law forbidding their use entirely ? There is no middle ground in this question. You must either declare the use of them right or wrong. We contend, that with the present wording of the ritual, it is wrong to use them, and hold that no Grand Chapter has the right to authorize their Subordinate Chapters to use them, the opinion of the General Grand Chapter to the contrary.

A charter for one new Chapter was granted.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. Wiggins, Grand Secretary, in which he presents a very interesting *resume* of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter and thirty-two Grand Chapters ; those of the District of Columbia for 1870 receiving quite an extended notice.

He quotes as follows from Comp. Lockie's address :

“I would ask the Companions to excuse me for trespassing so much upon their time, for no one more fully realizes than myself the fact that this subject (the death of Grand High Priest French) has been presented to this Grand Chapter by a Companion, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy (Masonically) to unloose.”

Upon which he comments as follows :

“Oh Tempora ! Oh Mores ! what an admission. We rather like an exhibition of humility by those in high places ; it is a quality so rare in these degenerate days that an occasional evidence of its existence is a positive treat ; but we humbly submit that this (to use a California phrase) is ‘rather running the thing into the ground.’ If the Grand High Priest is unworthy, who shall relieve the pedal extremities of Comp. Brown ?”

We quote the above for the purpose of having the opportunity of saying, that this remark was regretted very much by many Companions of our District, as they did not like to have Comp. Lockie put himself on such a level.

Commenting upon Comp. Mason's remarks in relation to the General Grand Chapter, he says :

"We judge from the general tenor of Comp. Mason's writings that he is not an ardent admirer of the General Grand Chapter ; in fact we are *almost* convinced that he would not mourn sincerely if that distinguished body was numbered with the things that are not. He loses no opportunity to pitch a hot shot into it, and all the evils that Royal Arch Masonry is heir to, he lays to its charge.

"We do not propose to discuss the merits or demerits of the General Grand Chapter ; enough has been said on both sides to place this controversy clearly before the minds of all who feel an interest in the matter, and each Companion will of course form his own opinion. We find no allusion to the General Grand Chapter in the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, except in the Report on Correspondence, by Comp. Mason, and we are therefore unaware of the sentiments entertained by the body itself towards the General Grand Chapter ; but we hope the hostilities so decidedly manifested by Comp. Mason is not generally entertained by our worthy Companions of the District of Columbia.

"The arguments of Comp. Mason against holding allegiance to the General Grand Chapter are not without weight ; but they would be far more potent if they were characterized by more brotherly love and less gall and bitterness. Bear in mind, Comp. Mason, that among those who compose the General Grand Chapter are some of the finest intellects in America—men whose writings and long years of arduous service in the Order have made them justly celebrated throughout the Masonic world ; men upon whose brows the frosts of many winters have fixed the stamp of wisdom and discretion, and who would scarcely be swerved from what they believe to be the right course by the empty bribe of a 'high-sounding title.' "

We suppose that hereafter no one must *dare* say a word against the General Grand Chapter, no matter what it does.

Comp. Jacob Hart Neff, of Auburn, was elected Grand High Priest ; Comp. Charles Louis Wiggin, of San Francisco, was reelected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 42. Number of R. . A. . Masons, 2,013.

DELAWARE.

The proceedings of the Fourth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Delaware, which was held at Dover, January 17, 1872, has been received. M. . E. . A. V. Lesley, Grand High Priest, presided, with representatives from four Chapters.

The Grand High Priest, in his address, says :

"Once more, Companions, we have assembled in council at the appointed hour, to examine the work of the past year ; to correct errors, if any there have been ; to recognize weaknesses, that we may guard against them in future ; to strengthen each other's hands in every good work ; to instruct each other ; to provide for the maintenance, growth and increased proficiency of our Order. I congratulate you thus early in the new year, on this our own Masonic new year, that our number is unbroken, our harmony perfect, our working efficient. We have no loss to mourn, no division of sentiment to regret, and we meet, I trust, with

purposes full of zeal for the advancement of the Order, the good and healthy growth of which should be our chief care and delight, as it is our duty."

A warrant was ordered to be issued for a New Chapter.

The sum of one cent per member was voted to General Grand Chapter.

It is with pleasure we announce the adoption of the following resolution, which we trust will be the means of allaying the bad feeling which has existed in this State for some time past :

"Resolved, That in view of past services to the Order and on the request of the members of Washington and Lafayette Chapters, Geo. W. Chaytor is hereby restored to the rights of a Royal Arch Mason."

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. D. C. Goodwin, in which he gives a very satisfactory abstract of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter and twenty-five Grand Chapters. The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is not among the number—its proceedings not having been received.

Comp. J. R. McFee, of Georgetown, was elected Grand High Priest ; Comp. J. P. Allmond, of Wilmington, was elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 4. Number of R. A. Masous, 227.

FLORIDA.

The twenty-fourth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Florida was held in the city of Tallahassee, commencing January 10, 1871. Comp. DeWitt C. Dawkins, Grand High Priest, presided, and delivered his annual address. Neither the address nor the proceedings contain much of interest to the craft outside of that jurisdiction.

We are glad to be able to state that the Grand Chapter of Florida is gradually overcoming the difficulties brought upon her by the late unhappy war, and the day is not far distant when she will be able to present herself to the craft in the strength and vigor she formerly enjoyed.

Speaking of the condition of R. A. Masonry in the State, Comp. Dawkins says :

"When you come to review the operations of Royal Arch Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction for the past Masonic year, you will not likely find that much rapid progress has been made, nor could it be reasonably expected. Yet the evidences of moderate success and the elements of steadiness and future prosperity are with us.

"Our people, like children and cripples, learning and relearning to walk, are beginning, if but slowly, to survive the misfortunes and hardships of the past, and when the sprig of prosperity has once more begun to flourish in our lovely floral State, Royal Arch Masonry will feel its influence and flourish and be useful in proportion. May the days of former prosperity ere long return, and even be exceeded, and then may all in the land be glad."

He announces the death of Grand Secretary Bradford, as follows :

"Since our last assembling here, our Father above hath been pleased to demand one of the most active and useful links in our Mystic Circle. Our Excellent Grand Secretary, Edward Bradford, Jr., will meet with us in our earthly Tabernacle no more. He laid down the working tools of his terrestrial quarries on the 20th of July, 1870, and it becomes your fraternal duty to make a suitable record of his memory. He fell a victim of disease in the years of buoyant manhood, with nothing to thwart the liveliest hopes of living to a ripe old age; but the brittle thread of life is suddenly cut and he is here no more."

The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Comp. Thomas A. Carruth, covering fifty-seven pages, in which he reviews, in a very satisfactory manner, the proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters, the District of Columbia for 1869 receiving a favorable notice. Comp. Carruth commences his report with an apology for its short comings, which all who have had the pleasure of perusing will agree was entirely unnecessary. The report was written by Comp. Carruth in the short time of *thirteen days*. We give in full his apology and the reasons therefor, and add that we will be very glad to peruse a report prepared by him under more favorable circumstances.

"In entering again upon the pleasant duty of writing a report for your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, we had hoped to have no occasion for rendering any excuse for its shortcomings other than the want of ability on the part of the writer, and had the work commenced in time to make the report without haste; but

'The best laid schemes of mice and men
Gang aft aglee.'

On the night of the 13th of December, the dwelling of the writer was entirely consumed by fire, leaving himself and family homeless, and destroying much valuable property, among which was the labor commenced, and in a fair way of completion, of this report. The cares and anxieties consequent upon such a misfortune, and the labor incident upon getting another shelter for wife and children, have so drawn upon our time as to prevent another commencement of work on the report until now, December 29th, when we begin *de novo*, and throw ourself upon the Masonic charity of our Companions at home and abroad."

Comp. DeWitt C. Dawkins, of Jacksonville, was reelected Grand High Priest.

Comp. W. M. McIntosh, of Tallahassee, was elected Grand Secretary. Number of Chapters, 13. Number of R. A. Masons, 368.

GEORGIA.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Georgia was held in the city of Augusta, April 24 and 25, 1872; M. E. Comp. Moses P. Kellogg, Grand High Priest, presided. Forty Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, the most of which is a reply to comments of Comp. Corson, of N. J., on certain sentiments uttered by him in his last address.

He reports the following decision as having been rendered by him, in which we fully agree:

"An applicant for the Chapter degrees, residing in South Carolina, but doing business in Augusta, Georgia, was duly elected by the Chapter having proper jurisdiction, and their request, under seal, was forwarded to Augusta Chapter No. 1, asking, as an act of courtesy, that the degrees be conferred by them. On the presentation of the applicant, the point was made by Comp. Russell, P. G. Secretary, that as a mere formality, no objection existing to the candidate, either as a man or Mason, it was necessary that Augusta Chapter should spread the ballot. The High Priest and members objected, and applied to me for instruction. As the applicant was favorably known to the Augusta Companions, and the evidence of his election indubitable, I directed the High Priest to proceed without spreading the ballot."

We regret the passage of the following resolution by the Grand Chapter of Georgia, believing, as we do, that it is in direct violation of one of the most important landmarks of our institution. No one has the right to question a Companion who may think it his duty to enter an objection to the advancement of a candidate, it being a matter that should be left entirely with himself. It is far better that a hundred should be kept out, and the harmony of the institution preserved, than one should be admitted, and its harmony destroyed. Such is the decision of a large majority of the jurisdictions, and we trust that the Grand Chapter of Georgia will take a different view of the question, and repeal the resolution :

"WHEREAS, The question has been raised as to whether a member objecting to a brother's advancement, after he has been balloted for and found worthy, to his receiving the degrees, be it

"Resolved, As the sense of this Grand Chapter, that the member objecting shall give the reason for his objection, which shall be passed upon by the Chapter, and if, upon a vote being taken in the body, only one vote is found to sustain the objection, the degree or degrees shall be conferred."

Charters were voted for two new Chapters.

We most heartily endorse the following resolution, which was passed by a *unanimous* vote, and trust that every one of our Grand Chapters will consider the matter, and take such action as will secure the punishment of all who may be guilty of the unmasonic conduct alluded to in this resolution :

"Resolved, That any High Priest of a Subordinate Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, who will not (after private admonition has failed to produce reform,) institute proceedings against the members of his Chapter guilty of profanity, drunkenness, or any other licentious conduct in conflict with the teachings and law of Masonry, shall be held responsible by this Grand Chapter of gross neglect of duty, and a failure to perform the legitimate functions of his office."

The Grand Chapter refuses to resume its connection with the General Grand Chapter.

There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

Comp Geo. W. Adams, of Forsyth, was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. J. Emmett Blackshear, of Macon, was reelected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 52. Number of R. A. A. Masons, 2,003.

IOWA.

This Grand Chapter held its Seventeenth Annual Grand Convocation at Council Bluffs, October 18, 1871; Comp. D. Baugh, Deputy Grand High Priest, presided. Forty Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest, Comp. Luse, was prevented from attending the sessions of the Grand Chapter in consequence of a very severe accident which befel him a few days previous to the time of meeting. He sent his annual address to the Grand Chapter, which was read by the Grand Secretary. It is devoted principally to matters of local interest. No decisions are reported. He granted dispensations for five new Chapters during the year. From the opening of his address we judge that Comp. Luse has had very little satisfaction in the performance of his official duties during the year, having been confined to his bed for a large portion of the time. He says :

"To the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa :

"COMPANIONS : In the kind providence of God we are again brought to another mile-post in our Masonic pilgrimage. To few of us has the past year been one of unalloyed pleasure ; to many its pathway has been indeed checkered with good and ill—to some the dark spots have seemed at times to cover almost the whole, while occasionally the sunlight breaking through the clouds has brightened them until even the saddest have seemed almost to smile. To me they have come as to others ; some bright and some dark ; and now, from the stillness of my room, where for almost four months I have been confined, and where I am now lying with a broken limb, I send you these few words of greeting, praying your indulgence for my absence, and the imperfection which must mark this communication. That I have escaped with my life is to me a source of profound satisfaction and thankfulness to Heaven, though my regret is deep that I cannot be with you."

We sympathize with Comp. Luse in his afflictions, and trust he may soon be able to return to his active duties in the R. A. A. Craft.

On the question of substitutes he says :

"The subject of substitutes has for several years occupied the attention of this Grand Chapter and of the craft in other jurisdictions. With us they are forbidden by a resolution of the Grand Chapter, and judging from the numerous applications which I have received during the past year for dispensations to disregard this law, (and which I, being a law-abiding man, have refused to grant,) it has been a source of great trouble and annoyance to the Chapters. In an elaborate report made to his Grand Chapter, Companion Drummond, of Maine, now General Grand High Priest, after having devoted considerable research to the subject, it is shown that very few of the Grand Chapters, and those only within a very few years, and they generally young Grand Chapters, have coincided with our views on this subject, and that in St. Andrew's Chapter, in Boston, substitution has been the rule for over a hundred years ;

and the General Grand Chapter, at its late meeting, having wisely considered that what has been the practice of Chapter Masonry ever since its origin, as now worked in America, is the best explanation of the original intent of the law and the construction put upon it by its framers, has decided that substitutes may be used. I would therefore recommend that the question be reviewed, and if you deem best, the resolution passed some years since be repealed."

The Grand Mark Lodge of England was recognized by the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions, introduced by Comp. Taylor :

"Whereas, it is of importance to Royal Arch Masonry that its rites and ceremonies should be uniform the world over, and that Royal Arch Masons should be in accord wherever dispersed; and whereas, the dissemination of the degrees of our system is greatly to be desired; therefore,

"Resolved, That we recognize the establishment of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, of which that distinguished Masonic scholar, Comp. Wm. James Hughan, of Truro, England, is Provincial Grand Secretary, and extend to it our cordial recognition, praying for its great success until such time as the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England shall recognize and disseminate the degrees in practice among us.

"Resolved, That the action had at the Grand Annual Convocation of 1868, requiring English Mark Master Masons to be 'healed,' be rescinded, they being hereby declared to be recognized as regular Mark Master Masons, and receivable into Chapters in this jurisdiction, when open in the degree of Mark Master, on the same footing as those of our own obedience.

"Resolved, That the interchange of representatives with the Grand Mark Lodge of England is hereby authorized and invited."

Five new Chapters were chartered.

A resolution was adopted which provides that no Companion shall be elected to the office of Grand High Priest, or Grand Treasurer, for more than one successive term. No reason is given for this action, but we suppose it is for the purpose of making room for the numerous aspirants.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand High Priest's Address, wherein he recommended the repeal of the resolution adopted in 1868, forbidding the use of substitutes, submitted two reports, a majority and a minority report, the first in favor and the latter against the repeal of the resolution. As our Grand Chapter has taken a very decided stand on this question, and prohibits the use of substitutes, we insert both reports on this question for the information of the R. A. Craft in this jurisdiction, as follows :

"The Committee on Jurisprudence having considered the resolution referred to them, viz : rescinding that passed in 1868, forbidding the use of substitutes, * * * would report as follows :

We recommend the repeal of the former forbidding the use of substitutes for the reasons :

1. That substitutes have been used since the introduction of Royal Arch Masonry into the United States ;
2. That they are still used in most or all of the old Grand Chapters
3. That their use is both recognized and justified by the General Grand Chapter ;

4. That all the better informed Masons throughout the land approve of it ;

5. The resolution passed by this body seven years ago was the result of hasty and inconsistent action, in which we followed the later lights rather than the earlier ;

6. That this 'new departure' in Masonry is only a feeble attempt to prove ourselves wiser than our fathers, and because we do not approve of Young America's innovation in the body of Masonry, as it was constituted in the long ago ;

7. Because it in most cases works a great inconvenience, clogging the wheels of the royal car, and is productive of no good ;

8. The ceremonies of installation are the work of the authors of the books in which they appear, and if they have no such forbidding clause, it is not obligatory upon this Grand Chapter, nor any of its subordinates ;

9. That the evils of too much legislation should be checked and averted at the earliest possible moment."

T. S. PARVIN, } Committee.
G. W. COOK, }

Comp. Winslow, from the same committee, presented the following minority report :

"To the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa :

*"As one of the members of the Committee on Jurisprudence, having considered the resolutions presented this Grand Body in relation to the repealing of that passed in 1863, forbidding the use of substitutes, * * * would beg leave to present the following minority report, and recommend that the resolution first referred to do not pass, for reasons :*

"1. Without discussing the origin of the law, or whether it is in general use or not in other jurisdictions, it has become thoroughly engrafted in our work, and it is in entire harmony with the ritual as adopted by this Grand Body.

"2. The practice of constantly altering or changing general rules and regulations cannot be too emphatically discouraged; it can but lead to uncertainties and irregularities in subordinate Chapters under supposed emergencies; trusting that this body will, under the pressure of the circumstances, repeal the law thus violated.

"3. While this departure may be permitted and even justified by the Most Excellent General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, yet such recognition of the practice is not in the nature of a law or edict of that Grand Body, and should have no controlling influence over the legislation of this body.

"4. The proposed repeal of this resolution, and the adoption of the practice of the use of substitutes, introduces a senseless and useless rule, requiring the use of three persons at every exaltation, but one of which need be a candidate for the Royal Arch degree.

"H. S. WINSLOW."

We congratulate Iowa upon this wise decision in refusing to rescind the resolution, and thereby refusing to give its sanction to a violation of the O. B. She is, in our opinion, sound upon this question, and we trust she will not allow herself to be driven from the path of duty in this matter by the views of others, expressed in the General Grand Chapter, some of whom have not been stable in their opinions on this question. We are happy to say that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia stood firm in the General Grand Chapter, and exerted all the power it possessed to prevent the action taken by that body.

The tribute of one cent per member was ordered to be paid to the General Grand Chapter.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. U. D. Taylor. It is quite lengthy, and reviews in a good style the proceedings of 36 Chapters, ours for 1870 being among the number.

Comp. E. A. Guilbert, of Dubuque, was elected Grand High Priest; Comp. W. B. Langridge, of Muscatine, was re-elected Grand Secretary. Number of Chapters, 65; number of R. A. Masons, 2,772.

ILLINOIS.

The Twenty-second Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Illinois was held in the city of Chicago, October 6, 1871. M. E. A. A. Murray, Grand High Priest, presided.

The Grand High Priest delivered quite a lengthy and interesting address, the most of which, however, is devoted to local matters. He says:

"It is with unfeigned pleasure that I am able to assure you that, so far as my knowledge extends, the year now about closing has been one of great interest and prosperity to the Royal Craft, not only in this, but throughout all our sister Grand Jurisdictions.

"While we recognize the guiding hand of Almighty God, who has preserved and secured to us life, health, and all other needed blessings, what can I say that will be more fitting than to enjoin upon you even a larger confidence in Him, and a renewed zeal in obedience to His laws.

"We stand before the world in an important aspect. Intelligent, well-meaning men recognize in us and our noble fraternity no second rate moral power; and while croakers and fogies are content to live within the limits of their own sordid and selfish aims and deeds, and to condemn whatever might help mankind to rise to better and nobler views of human life and destiny, the benedictions of the truly wise and good rest on our noble and glorious work.

"And why should they not? Our banner floats on every breeze, bearing on its ample folds an influence sufficient to convince the wondering world that our motive is progress, growth, improvement, and that the welfare of an undivided and indivisible humanity is our noble inspiration.

"Under Him who presides in the Grand East, we feel encouraged to go on to even grander achievements than those recorded in the past history of our Order.

"With the most fertile soil in the world, the broadest prairies, the grandest commercial interests, the best schools, and the indomitable spirit of American people, who are always rushing to the accomplishment of impossibilities and solving problems before which the Old World stands in dumb amazement, who can conceive of the glorious future that awaits us.

"Feeling assured that no good can be wholly lost, let the history of the past, together with the duties of the present, and bright hopes for the future, lead us manfully to the front of every moral and philanthropic enterprise.

"During my service in the position with which you honored me one year ago, and which I am here to-day to yield up to my successor, it has been one of my earnest purposes to enforce by precept and example a due observance of our requirements of temperance in all things, and especially

to discountenance every appearance of that great evil, which is desolating so many homes, ruining so many of earth's brightest intellectual jewels, and threatening even our national perpetuity; and it gives me much satisfaction to be able to state to you that throughout the length and breadth of this Grand Jurisdiction there is a commendable improvement in this, and consequently every moral direction, and I rejoice to congratulate you upon the continued progress of our Order everywhere."

The Grand High Priest comments at length on the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, and in relation to the resolution passed by that body, declaring the use of substitutes regular, he says:

"It may be deemed out of place for me, young as I am in Masonic years and experience, to take issue with the Honorable Companions; nevertheless, I am compelled by my own conviction of right to hold, as I ever have, that the using of substitutes is in direct violation of our Ritual, and that no such emergency can exist as will justify any High Priest in a violation of his obligation; and not until our Ritual is modified so as to conform to the meaning and intent of these resolutions shall I feel justified in using substitutes, or consenting to their being used, and I hope that this Grand Chapter will not adopt the spirit of the resolution."

No decisions are reported.

By the following extract from the report of the committee to whom was referred the Address of the Grand High Priest, which was adopted by the Grand Chapter, it will be seen that in future the Grand Chapter intends to make the granting of dispensations a source of revenue :

"Your committee agree with the Grand High Priest in regard to the granting of special dispensations, and would recommend that in all cases a fee of five dollars be charged for each special dispensation to receive and act upon a petition or confer the degrees without regard to time; and that a fee of two dollars be charged for all special dispensations granted for any other purpose."

The same committee reported, in relation to that portion of the address of the Grand High Priest which referred to the use of substitutes, as follows :

"Your committee fully concur with the opinions of our M. E. Grand High Priest in regard to the use of substitutes. We consider the use of substitutes as a violation of our Ritual and obligations, and a direct violation of Resolution No. 20, adopted at the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter in 1866."

We congratulate the Grand Chapter on the position here taken, and hope that all the other Grand Bodies will take the same action in relation to this subject, and not be driven from the true path because the General Grand Chapter thought proper to turn aside from its legitimate course and pass a resolution in relation to a matter over which it has no control.

Charters were issued for five new Chapters.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Comp. James H. Miles, in which he reviews the proceedings of thirty-five Grand Chapters, the District of Columbia, for 1870, being among the number.

Comp. James A. Hawley, of Dixon, was elected M. E. Grand High Priest.

Comp. James H. Miles, of Chicago, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 147. Number of R. A. Masons, 9,000.

LOUISIANA.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana was held in the city of New Orleans, February 13, 1872. M. E. Comp. Girard, Grand High Priest, presided. Sixteen Chapters were represented.

Comp. Girard delivered his annual address. Speaking of the R. A. Craft in his jurisdiction, he says :

"I feel happy to be able to report to you that we have cause to rejoice at the continued prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry throughout our jurisdiction. No discordant sounds are heard, no grievances reported, and your Committee on Appeals and Grievances have nothing to act upon. The utmost good-will pervades every part of our Tabernacle, and we would be remiss in our duty should we fail to return thanks to the Great Giver of all good gifts and graces for the peace and harmony which gladden our heart."

In his account of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter he says :

"For some time before the session, the several Grand Chapters, principally through their Committees on Foreign Correspondence, had been discussing the question of the dissolution of that body, and it was generally understood that at that session this important subject would come up for discussion and final arbitrament. Soon after the organization of the G. G. Chapter, the amendment relative to the P. M. Degree was called up with a view of testing the strength of the friends of the G. G. Chapter. This measure met with a complete failure. Out of 115 votes cast there were only fourteen who favored the amendment, and seeming to find fault with the work handed down to us by our fathers, appeared willing to tear down, instead of building up, the house of the Lord. The G. Chapter of Louisiana voted against the amendment.

"This having failed, an attempt was made to revive the troublesome difficulty of the G. Chapter of Delaware, perhaps with a view of creating some discord and assisting the spirit of disorganization ; but it met with a more signal failure. It was received with marked disapprobation, and cast off as quick as possible."

The foregoing extracts will, I have no doubt, convey to Companions who had the pleasure of being present at the session of the General Grand Chapter, information which they were unable to obtain while in Baltimore, and it seems somewhat strange to us how Comp. G. obtained the information he here imparts to his Grand Chapter ; for certainly nothing

of the kind was hinted at during the discussions that took place on these questions. The amendment relating to the P. M. Degree came before the G. G. Chapter in regular order, and was very ably discussed by Companions Gouley and Fellows, neither of whom intimated that the vote on the question was to be considered a test vote of the strength of the friends of the General G. Chapter; on the contrary, some of the most ardent friends of the General G. Chapter voted for the amendment, and some of its opponents voted against the amendment, neither of them for a moment supposing that their votes upon the question were to be afterwards paraded before the Craft as indicating their views upon the propriety of continuing the existence of the General Grand Chapter.

The case of the Grand Chapter of Delaware was brought before the General Grand Chapter by petition from a Companion who considered himself aggrieved by the action of the General Grand High Priest, in which he requested an investigation into the doings of that officer, and his right to such an investigation was urged by *Comp. Mackey*, one of the most ardent friends of the General Grand Chapter. Such being the facts in the case, we inquire—how could *Comp. Girard* make the assertions contained in the foregoing extract from his address? We are surprised that a correction of the same was not made in the Grand Chapter, more especially as *Comp. Hornor* was present when the address was delivered.

The following, which we take from the same address upon the subject of dimission and non-affiliation, we heartily endorse, and trust that the action here recommended will receive the proper consideration, not only from the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, but of every other jurisdiction, and that speedily, too, as it is a subject which, in our opinion, is of vital importance to the Craft:

“It certainly is the spirit of our laws that there should be no drones in our midst, and still I fear the different bodies are too willing to allow Companions to discontinue their membership. Often the applicant for a dimitt does not intend to affiliate with any other Chapter, and he only applies for a dimitt to withdraw, as he thinks, perhaps, not dishonorably, from the Order. That is eminently wrong. It is not in accordance with the spirit of the ancient charge. ‘Every brother ought to belong to one Lodge, and be subject to its by-laws and general regulations,’ (and I think every Companion ought to belong to one Chapter, and be subject to its by-laws and general regulations.) Sometimes, too, after having been dimitted, his application for affiliation is refused, and thus he may be unwillingly made to remain a non-affiliate.

“Whilst we have legislated against non-affiliation, and endeavored to recall into membership those who were out, we should have directed our efforts to retain those who are members by not allowing any Companion to lose his membership in his Chapter until he has been accepted a member in another. By enacting a by-law that a dimitt will not have the effect of dissolving membership until the dimitted Companion has been accepted a member by some other Chapter, or that one dimitted who has not applied for membership in some regular Chapter for twelve months should be considered as suspended, and reported as such, non-affiliation would be stopped at once, and it is only by arresting the evil that we may hope to ever see the last of craftsmen lounging about with-

out asking or receiving wages. It were much better for the craft that those who have failed to appreciate the sublimity of the teachings of our Order, and have become desirous of being relieved of the noble duties of a Mason, should be also deprived of the rights of one. They should be cut off as dead branches and stand as suspended, and thus deprived of all rights, even Masonic communication. Without some penalty affixed to continued non-affiliation, it must increase and become a sore evil, not to be easily cured.

"If these views are correct, the practice of striking from the roll for non-payment of dues must be wrong in principle. It may and does afford the Chapter some relief, as it has no contribution to make to the Grand Chapter for the delinquent member; but it also has the bad effect of increasing the number of loungers, without any adequate good result. The member stricken from the roll remains in good standing, since he is not suspended; he may not even have been reprimanded, and is, therefore, still entitled to all the rights of a Royal Arch Mason without having to bear any of the burdens."

The one-cent tax to the General Grand Chapter was voted.

Charters for two new Chapters were granted.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was submitted by Comp. Joseph P. Hornor, but we have not thought proper to peruse any portion of it, except that which relates to the District of Columbia, and for the information of our Companions we give it in full, as follows:

* "DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

"We are in receipt of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for the year 1871, but we find in them no apology or expression of regret for the harsh and unmasonic expressions indulged in its published transactions of 1870 towards a prominent member of our Grand Chapter, and others of our sister jurisdictions; on the contrary, the pamphlet before us contains animadversions and insinuations against other distinguished Companions quite as reprehensible as those heretofore complained of by us. Under these circumstances, it is impossible for us to take further notice of the doings of this Grand Chapter."

As our Companions will, I have no doubt, be anxious to know what cause was given for the foregoing remarks, we insert that portion of the report of Comp. Mason presented to our Grand Chapter in 1870, to which Companion Hornor has taken exceptions:

"LOUISIANA.

"Grand High Priest Todd delivered an address, in which he congratulated the Craft that peace and harmony prevailed everywhere, even in Maryland and the District of Columbia. He alludes to our difficulties here and seems delighted that they are settled. If he had been as much delighted at St. Louis in 1868, we would have had less trouble with him in the General Grand Chapter, when the question came up in regard to our recognition, against which he fought with unscrupulous zeal."

As the writer had the pleasure of being present at the meeting of the General Grand Chapter in St. Louis in 1868, and witnessing all that took place in relation to our Grand Chapter, he is, for himself, and he has no

doubt that all of the Companions who were present from the District of Columbia will concur, willing to admit that the language used by Comp. Mason was not justified by the facts in the case. Comp. Todd, on that occasion, did all that he could, conscientiously we believe, both on the committee and in the General Grand Chapter, to sustain the action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and repudiate the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. *This he had a right to do, believing, as we are certain he did, that we were in the wrong.* On the occasion referred to, we had the pleasure of meeting Comp. Todd for the first time, and we freely admit that our estimate of his character forbids the supposition on our part that he would fight any question "*with unscrupulous zeal.*" Having disposed of this subject as we hope to the satisfaction of Comp. Todd, and the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, we take the liberty of suggesting to Comp. Hornor, that the course he has thought proper to pursue in relation to this matter, is just as objectionable as the language of Comp. Mason, about which he has made so much ado, and would submit that the proper course for him to have pursued, when he received our proceedings for the year 1871, and found therein "no apology or expression of regret for the harsh and unmasonic expressions," &c., was to have brought the subject to the attention of his Grand High Priest, who, I have no doubt, would have brought the same to the attention of our Grand Chapter, through the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, Comp. Holmead, when the whole matter would have been explained in a satisfactory manner. Comp. Hornor is aware that the confidence of Grand Bodies in the writers of their reports is such, that their contents are seldom known until they are published, and then very few Companions ever read the entire report. Trusting that nothing will take place in the future to disturb the friendly relations which have existed between our Grand Chapters, we dismiss the subject.

Comp. M. E. Girard, of Vermilionville, was re-elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. Jas. C. Batchelor, M. D., New Orleans, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 29. Number of R. A. Masons, 1,576.

MARYLAND.

We have before us the volume of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland for the year 1871, containing the proceedings of one Special Convocation, held May 9, and the Annual Convocation, held November 13, at both of which M. E. Comp. C. H. Ohr, Grand High Priest, presided—five Chapters being represented at the Special and seven at the Annual Convocation.

The only business transacted at the Special Convocation was the installation of the Grand Officers and completing the arrangements for properly entertaining the General Grand Chapter during its Triennial Convocation, which was held in the city of Baltimore in September, 1871.

As to the manner in which the Grand Chapter of Maryland performed its part on this interesting occasion we deem it only necessary to say that, as a member of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, we felt proud of the fraternal spirit exhibited by the Companions, and the magnificent style in which our "*Old Mother*" entertained the visiting Companions. Comp. Wentz proved himself to be the "right man in the right place."

Very little business other than that of a local character was done at the Annual Convocation. Comp. Ohr, Grand High Priest, delivered his Annual Address, which is devoted principally to local matters. He reports no decisions during the year. He had granted two dispensations for new Chapters during the year, and charters were voted to each at this Convocation. We extract the following from his Address :

"That ever-enduring kindness and unceasing mercy which characterize the Lord of Hosts has guided us during the past year safely over the rough and rugged paths of time and restored us to our fraternal altar and friendly intercourse. It is meet and our bounden duty to return to Him in union, fervency, and zeal the incense of grateful hearts for the goodness He has manifested towards us during the past year, affording abundant evidence that His mercy endureth forever. Health, peace, and prosperity have covered as with a mantle our country and kindred ; we have been permitted the assemblage in our midst of our Brethren and Companions from the East and the West, from the South and the North of the broad inheritance which He hath given us ; we have been permitted to unite our devotions with theirs around one common altar ; we have been permitted to greet them in friendship and love, to mingle in social and friendly intercourse and offices. These are blessings and comforts which are, and ever should be, dear and precious to the Masonic heart, and should ever bring forth from it grateful adoration to the Omnipotent Ruler of the Universe.

"It has, nevertheless, pleased Him to permit the hand of affliction to fall on a portion of our country, and doubtless also on a portion of our beloved Israel. We have cause to be thankful that it has been of His great mercy that it has not fallen upon ourselves. It is an additional cause for thankfulness that He has put into our hearts, and not only into our hearts but also into the hearts of our neighbors and our common race, to extend freely and promptly the helping hand of that charity which extends beyond the grave. Let our hearts and hands remain open to the further calls which may be made for more help."

One cent per annum was voted to the General Grand Chapter, for each R. A. Mason on the rolls in the State.

The following resolution was adopted, and a committee appointed :

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed, of whom the M. E. Grand High Priest shall be chairman, to compile and have printed a compendium of the proceedings of this Grand Chapter from its earliest data to the present time."

This is a move in the right direction, and something that ought to have been done long ago ; and should the committee, as we have no doubt they

will, make the compendium complete, it will be of great service to the craft, and avoid a recurrence of the difficulties experienced by members of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and of our own Grand Chapter, in obtaining proper information in relation to Capitular Masonry in Maryland and District of Columbia during past years. We trust the committee will hurry up the work and let us have a copy.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was written by Comp. H. L. Emmons, jr., in which he reviews the proceedings of thirty-five Grand Chapters, the proceedings of the District of Columbia for 1870 receiving a short notice. Comp. Emmons, in preparing this report, has adopted the *popular idea*, and confined himself almost entirely to a recital of the proceedings of the various Grand Chapters, making very few comments. In his review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota, he publishes the history of the Cryptic Degrees, as given by Comp. A. T. C. Pierson in his report on Foreign Correspondence to the said Grand Chapter, and as it may prove of interest to our Companions, we insert it here :

“The ritual of the Cryptic degrees, Select and Royal Master, were brought to this country by Joseph Meyers, and deposited in the Archives of the Council of Princess of Jerusalem, at Charleston, S. C., in February, 1788. They were then, and for a long time afterward, given in the Order as above. They, with the ‘Master Mark Mason,’ which Webb & Co. afterwards *fixed* up and called ‘Mark Master,’ the ‘Mediterranean Pass,’ &c., were regarded as *side* degrees of the A.° and A.° S.° R.°, and communicated without fee by S.° or D.° G.° I.° G.° of that Rite at pleasure to Masons of either Rite that were sufficiently advanced.

“After a time Councils began to be established in the Southern States, under the auspices of members of the Supreme Council of the A.° and A.° S.° R.° for the Southern Jurisdiction.

Somewhere about 1819–20, Jeremy L. Cross visited Baltimore on a lecturing tour, and received the degrees from Philip Eckel, who was a member of the Supreme Council, and a very prominent Mason in the State of Maryland.

“Cross had received the 33d degree and was recognized by the Southern S.° C.°. On his return North, he introduced the degrees of Select and Royal Master, but reversed the order of giving them; he required a fee of \$10 for the two degrees. This, when known in Maryland, caused a great deal of discussion, and to this day many of the older Masons in that State believe that Cross was expelled for so doing.

“Cross organized Councils and granted Charters in New York, Connecticut, &c. From these have grown all the Councils in the Northern States, while in those in the Southern Jurisdiction of the A.° and A.° S.° R.° all the Councils were organized under the authority of the Supreme Council with the exception of Missouri and Iowa.

“The Southern S.° C.° claimed jurisdiction over the degrees until the session of 1870, when it surrendered its claim. The Northern S.° C.° never made any claim to the degrees. During the anti-Masonic excitement, all but two or three of the Councils in the North died out.

“After the first furore of anti-Masonry had passed over and inquiry began to be made after the Masonic degrees, attention was again directed to Cryptic Masonry; Webb’s Royal Arch required an explanation which it was thought those degrees afforded. Generally regarded as side degrees, every one North in possession of them supposed that he had a right to

follow Cross' example and give them at pleasure. This supposition was encouraged by the G. : G. : Chapter, which in 1829 authorized the Grand Chapters in States where there were no Grand Councils to make arrangements for conferring the degrees, giving permission to its Subordinate Chapters to allow those in possession of the degrees to confer them in the Chapters. This resolution was repealed in 1853.

"In Maryland the degrees, from their introduction and still, are conferred in Chapters between the M. : E. : and R. : A. :, and when the Grand Chapter of Maryland joined the G. : G. : Chapter, it was stipulated that she should not be required to change her system of work.

"In Virginia, if we are not mistaken, they are given before the M. : E. : as a part of the series of the Capitular degrees.

"There are now twenty-nine Grand Councils in existence. For the purpose of uniformity in the government of the degrees, we would suggest to our Maryland Companions that the Grand Chapter should relinquish all control of the degrees, and if they want them, form Councils for conferring them."

The foregoing having been written evidently for the purpose of having some effect upon the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and influencing it to remove the Cryptic degrees from the Chapter, Comp. Emmons replies as follows :

"Maryland is reluctant to overthrow well-established precedents. The Cryptic Degrees have been a part of the Chapter for over fifty years. To remove them, therefore, requires mature consideration.

"She has yielded much to secure harmony among the Royal Craft; but what she has done was done manfully, and without harboring vain regrets or ill will. We assure our esteemed Companion she will also do everything consistent with honor to secure that much-needed reform—*uniformity of work*, and as individual members of the committee we hazard the prediction that before the next Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, the Cryptic Degrees will be conferred in Maryland as in nearly every other jurisdiction."

We hail this prediction of Comp. Emmons with delight, and trust it will be verified. But why put the change off so long? Why not do it at once, so that when the General Grand Chapter again convenes, her constituency may be a unit in this matter. We believe Maryland is the only member of the General Grand Chapter family that holds out on this question. The propriety of such a course has been fully discussed, and is sustained by nearly all the great minds of the Royal Craft who have been on the stage of action for some years past. That this change may be effected at the next Annual Convocation is our earnest wish.

Comp. George L. McCahan, of Baltimore, was elected Grand High Priest, and Comp. William A. Wentz, of Baltimore, was reelected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 11. Number of R. : A. : Masons, 1,100.

MISSISSIPPI.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Grand Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in the city of Holly Springs, commencing on the 18th of Janu-

ary, 1872. M. E. Comp. Charles T. Bond, Grand High Priest, occupied the Grand East. Fifty-nine Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, from which we quote:

"While rejoicing in our own prosperity, and thankful for the blessings bestowed upon us and comforts surrounding us, we should not, we must not, forget the terrible calamities which have fallen upon our Companions in other Grand Jurisdictions. But a few days since, where stood stately buildings and proud Masonic temples, and prosperity was enjoyed, now desolation marks many of those places, and the busy marts of trade and commerce are swept away, and blackened ruins remain only to show the uncertainty of wealth. We must not forget the duty of the hour: the homeless must be sheltered, the hungry fed, the naked clothed, the widow and the orphan must be provided for. If anything can be devised for their relief it should be done; the subject should be carefully considered, and the result which may be arrived at show that we have done all we can in uniting the noble and grand design. Let us act so as to be happy ourselves and endeavor to promote the happiness of others. Our motto should be, Do unto others as we, under similar circumstances, would wish them to do unto us. In the frightful and terrible desolation of our land we should exercise a broader charity and a wider philanthropy than has ever heretofore characterized our noble Order. We should rise to an emergency without a parallel in history. The bereaved widows and friendless orphans of our own beloved State and Grand Jurisdiction should be our special care. The subdued wail of sorrow burdens the air, and should find a refrain in the heart of every Companion. Active, earnest usefulness should ever characterize us. We may learn a lesson from our brethren and Companions of this place. Their beautiful and really magnificent temple of olden time was a heap of ashes at the close of the war. With a noble and praiseworthy energy the brethren and Companions have erected this new temple, which we now occupy for our Grand Annual Convocation, and which is even more lovely than the old, and now, to each member of the various Masonic bodies of the State Holly Springs Lodge extends the hospitalities of the city and makes him an honored guest. With such energy and such liberality throughout the State, our Order would nobly rise to the full measure of its usefulness.

"Blessed is the man whose tender care
Relieves the poor in their distress,
Whose pity wipes the widow's tear,
Whose hand supports the fatherless."

"Companions, let us resolve to live for something. Thousands of men breathe, move, and live, pass off the stage of life, and are heard of no more. Why? None were blessed by them; none could point to them as the means of their redemption; not a line they wrote, not a word they spoke; their light went out in darkness, and they were remembered no more. Will you thus live and die, O man immortal!

"Companions, let us endeavor to live for something, do good, and leave behind us a monument of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy. Let us write our names in kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of those we come in contact with, and we will never be forgotten. Good deeds will shine as brightly on the earth and in the hearts of memory as the stars of Heaven.

"We all have our vices, and the best
Is he who with the fewest is oppressed."

Referring to improvements in the condition of the craft in his Jurisdiction, he uses the following language, which we wish could be transferred to the address of every Grand High Priest:

"I cannot allow the occasion to pass without announcing the gratifying fact of marked improvement in one of the cardinal virtues of our Order—temperance. The united efforts of good and true Companions can and will do much to effect reform in all grades of society, and I sincerely hope that it may ere long be truthfully said that no man who has bowed at the altar of Freemasonry worships at the shrine of Bacchus."

Mississippi, like Alabama, has been sorely afflicted during the past year by the death of one of her most gifted members, M. E. Comp. G. M. Hillyer. We will not attempt to write an eulogy upon the character of Comp. Hillyer, although we in our young days learned to respect him for his general intelligence and great worth. He was called during his life to fill many important positions, both in the State and in the Fraternity, and all who have had the pleasure of being acquainted with the course he pursued must say that he discharged the various duties in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon him as a man and Mason, and whose memory will be cherished by the Craft with feelings of pride and pleasure.

The Grand High Priest, in making the official announcement of his death, says :

"How shall I refer to our dead? The subject is so solemn, and yet it is the only sorrow from which we refuse to be divorced; every other wound we seek to heal; every other affliction to forget; but this wound we consider it a duty to keep open. This affliction we cherish and brood over in secret. Where is the mother that would willingly forget the infant that perished like a blossom from her arms, though every recollection is a pang? Where is the child that would forget the most tender of parents, though to remember be but to lament? Who even in the hour of agony would forget the friend over whom he mourns? The love which survives the tomb is one of the noblest attributes of the soul. If it has woes, it has likewise its delights. We announce the death of G. M. Hillyer, P. G. M., P. G. H. P., who died in Vicksburg on the 23d of April, 1871, after a long and protracted illness. He was distinguished as a writer and orator; his services were always freely devoted to the interests of Masonry. His labors were duly appreciated by his brethren, who delighted in awarding him the highest honors in their gift. I saw him often during his long-continued illness, and witnessed his efforts to work and labor, until the Angel of Death summoned him kindly to a rest not enjoyed here."

A charter was ordered to be issued for a new Chapter.

Comp. William S. Patton submitted a report on Foreign Correspondence; but, in consequence of the financial embarrassment of the Grand Chapter, it was voted not to print the same, and we are therefore deprived of the pleasure of perusing it. The Grand Chapter voted that the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence should not be printed

with the proceedings hereafter, unless by a special vote of the Grand Chapter authorizing its publication.

The following resolution was adopted :

“Resolved, That the reports on Foreign Correspondence made to the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, and published with the Annual Proceedings, are to be received and held as the work and opinions of the committee only, and not to be taken as reflecting the opinions or decisions of the Grand Chapter, especially on subjects of Masonic law.”

We fully concur in the position taken by the adoption of this resolution, provided the report is not read and accepted by the Grand Chapter. But if the report is read, accepted, and ordered to be published with the proceedings, without objection being made to any portion of it, the Grand Chapter thereby adopts the views of the committee and becomes responsible for the same.

The Representative system was adopted by the Grand Chapter.

The charters of ten Chapters were withdrawn, on account of failure to pay up their arrears for dues to the Grand Chapter.

Owing to the financial condition of the Grand Chapter, the request of the General Grand Chapter for a contribution of one cent to its funds for each Companion on its rolls was not complied with.

The rule has been in Mississippi, for some time past, that substitutes should not be used, but the General Grand Chapter having recently passed a resolution both approving and disapproving of the use of substitutes, the Companions, doubting the correctness of the position they held, partly recanted from the position they had previously taken, and passed the following resolution :

“Resolved, That this Grand Chapter permits the use of substitutes in the Royal Arch Degree, but earnestly recommend that said permission be exercised only in cases of emergency, of which the presiding officer of each Chapter shall be the judge.”

When the Grand Chapter of Mississippi adopted the rule prohibiting the use of substitutes, they did so from a conscientious conviction that by the use of them the O. B. was not complied with. Will the Companions now explain to us what has effected this great change in their opinions on this subject? Was it the non-committal action of the General Grand Chapter, or have they received additional light on the subject? If they have, would it not be well to let us all have the same light, so that we may be able to govern our actions by it?

Comp. H. C. Robinson, of Meridian, was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. J. L. Power, of Jackson, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 81 ; number of R. A. Masons, 2,663.

MISSOURI.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held

in St. Louis on the 5th day of October, 1871. M. E. Joseph M. Fox, Grand High Priest, presided. Forty-seven Chapters were represented.

The address of the Grand High Priest is devoted entirely to matters of a local character. He was not called upon during the year to render any decisions upon questions of Masonic law, none being reported by him.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is, as usual, from the pen of Bro. George Frank Gouley, and reviews the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters, our own, among the number, receiving a short notice. The report of Comp. Gouley contains a great many good things, and some things not so good. In his review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Kansas we find the following :

"He [the Grand High Priest] decides that 'a Chapter U. D. is an inchoate body. It is simply an assemblage of Masons exercising the functions of a Chapter, so far as necessary, for the advancement of Master Masons to the Royal Arch degree, but having no other power or authority whatever. * * * Membership therein is unknown; none can affiliate with it; is organized solely for the purpose of giving the petitioner an opportunity to show to the Grand Chapter their ability to labor,' &c.

"We hope the time may come, but sometimes fear it never will, when some of Comp. A. G. Mackey's innovations will cease to be law. We have as high appreciation of his works as any one can have; but that it is not perfect all must allow, and we know of no greater fallacy ever put afloat than this, viz : that a Lodge or Chapter is merely an 'inchoate body.'

"If they are merely inchoate, so must be the candidates they turn out—in other words, they are Masonic eggs to be hatched out by a full grown Chapter. The conclusion that Comp. Bassett comes to is the natural one, by logical deduction from the false premise, viz : that a Chapter U. D. is merely a cryptic playhouse, where children gather together with stray china just to practice on before they grow up, and a pretty mess of tea they wind up with when they realize that they are merely children, and are not responsible for broken dishes. Come, Comp. B., let us look this case squarely in the face, like able-bodied men, and grasp the issue as it stands. You issue a dispensation for a Chapter, and to do what? To make ROYAL ARCH MASONS! You issue it not for yourself as Grand High Priest, but, as Grand High Priest, you issue it in the name, and by the authority, of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Kansas; clothed and covered by the panoply of that body to do the very highest act that any Chapter can do, viz : to make a Master Mason a Royal Arch Mason in the world.

"To say that those who compose it are not members of it, but merely a lot of Companions assembled in another room to experiment on candidates who, having exalted, are not members also, is to say that a Chapter U. D. is nothing more nor less than a meeting in an ante-room performing a Royal Arch farce, and we deny the power of the Grand High Priest to be a party to it by issuing a mere letter of dispensation.

"We hold that a Chapter U. D. is a regularly organized body composed of its constituent members, and those who are made therein become members, and when they dimit, and travel abroad, they can conscientiously say they hail from a regular Chapter with authority and power to work, &c."

That the position here assumed by Comp. G., in relation to the status of a Chapter U. D., is incorrect and in opposition to the long-established

and accepted usage of the fraternity, must be apparent to all, and we venture the assertion that he will stand *alone* in advocating the new doctrine here put forth. We will not attempt to argue against the position ourselves, but will leave it to abler minds. The extract above, as will be seen, contains a fling at M. E. Comp. A. G. Mackey, and we will content ourselves by presenting to the reader the reply of Comp. Mackey, as published in his magazine for February, 1871, which, we think, is a full and complete answer to the erroneous position assumed. Comp. Mackey says:

"One less important matter is a little attack made upon us by the chairman of the report. He is commenting on the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Kansas, and quotes a decision of the Grand High Priest that 'a Chapter under dispensation is an inchoate body.' Upon this Comp. Gouley says:

"We hope the time may come, but sometimes fear it never will, when some of Comp. A. G. Mackey's innovations will cease to be law."

"Surely our Companion will see that in thus unnecessarily attacking us (for our name had not been before introduced) with a charge from which every conscientious Mason recoils, he is temporarily forgetting the courtesy which we are told he ordinarily knows so well how to exercise. Many years ago, when we were installed as Master of a Lodge, we expressed the belief that 'it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry,' and at the same time we solemnly promised to support and maintain that principle. It is natural, therefore, that we should not like at this late day to be charged by any one with a violation of our sacred pledge. We are as much an enemy to innovations as Comp. Gouley, and the labor of our life has been to protect and preserve all the ancient landmarks. 'Innovation,' said Dr. Fred. Dalche—and it was in his school that we received our first light in Masonry—is treason, and saps the venerable fabric of the Order.' We are very sure that Comp. Gouley wrote without weighing the true import of his words. But why so angry with the word *inchoate*. It is not a very hard word, although not in very extensive use. It signifies, (as Comp. Gouley of course knows,) like its Latin original, *inchoatus*, 'just begun,' or 'commenced,' and therefore 'incomplete' and 'unfinished.' He will surely not deny that a Chapter under dispensation is 'incomplete' and 'unfinished' as a Chapter. It has just been commenced, and in time will be finished by the action of the Grand Chapter in giving it a charter. And surely it is not right to accuse one as an innovator because he believes this self-evident truth, that that thing, whatever it be, is *inchoate* or *unfinished* to which it is necessary that something else should be done to complete it.

"But the amusing part of the affair is that at this very session of the Grand Chapter of Missouri at which our Companion, as chairman of a committee, expresses his indignation that Chapters under dispensation should be deemed only inchoate, he as Grand Secretary treats such Chapters in a way that is only excusable on the ground that they are not completely finished and entitled to capitular privileges. Thus, at the opening of the Grand Chapter forty-seven chartered Chapters are represented as present, and also three Chapters under dispensation. But Comp. Gouley does not seem to deem these three *inchoate* Chapters as worthy of much consideration, for he says: 'There being forty-seven chartered Chapters represented, the Grand High Priest declared a quorum present.' So that it appears that in Missouri Chapters U. D. are so far inchoate as to be incapable of making a part of a quorum.

"But the pay-roll furnishes the unkindest cut of all, in which the representatives of the chartered Chapters were all paid, but the Chapters U. D. were all left out in the cold; and we suppose, because they were inchoate or unfinished, their High Priests were permitted to go home without compensation. And lastly, the Grand High Priest reported that he had during the recess recalled the dispensation of a Chapter U. D. and issued another: a course which, however legal with a Chapter deemed inchoate, would hardly have been practiced on a Chapter completed by having its warrant of constitution. In that case the Grand High Priest might have arrested the charter for the time, but could not have recalled it, and certainly could not have issued a new one.

"In Missouri they do, indeed, seem to think that Chapters under dispensation have something of inchoateness or imperfection about them. Comp. Gouley must take his own Grand Chapter to task. It is bad policy to fling stones while you live in a glass house."

Number of Chapters, 74. Number of members, 3,406.

Comp. Joseph M. Fox was reelected Grand High Priest, and Comp. G. F. Gouley was reelected Grand Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS.

A volume containing the proceedings of nine Special, three Quarterly, and the Annual Convocations of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts for the year 1871 has been received, at each of which M. E. Comp. Henry Chickering, Grand High Priest, presided. The nine Special Convocations were held for the purpose of constituting new Chapters.

The Grand High Priest delivered two addresses during the year, at different Convocations. In his address of March 7 he says:

"I wish to call your attention to the subject of dimits for persons to whom charters for new Chapters are issued. There has been too much neglect upon this subject. I am convinced that the name of no Companion, a member of an existing Chapter, should be inserted in a charter till he presents a dimitt from his Chapter; otherwise, a Companion largely in arrears for dues, or one even under suspension, might be constituted into a new Chapter. If a Companion is not an affiliated R. A. Mason, he should be required to bring a certificate from the Chapter in which he received his degrees, or from other reliable source, certifying this fact and his standing. I recommend that hereafter this be required."

Upon the subject alluded to in the foregoing extract the Grand Chapter adopted the report of the special committee to whom the same had been referred, as follows:

"The committee to whom was referred so much of the address of the Grand High Priest, delivered at the last Quarterly Convocation, as related to the matter and method of dimitting from membership in Chapters before signing charters for new ones, and the impropriety and illegality of holding membership in two Chapters at the same time, with other matter appertaining to the same subject, together with certain questions submitted by St. Mark's Chapter, Taunton, in reference to the same, have attended to that duty, and beg leave to report that, after a careful consideration of the subject, they agree with the views expressed by the

Grand High Priest, and approve of his decisions and rulings. Your committee would therefore recommend, for the guidance of this Grand Body, the adoption of the following as an addition to the particular regulations :

"Before a charter for a new Chapter shall be issued by this Grand Body the Grand High Priest shall be furnished with satisfactory assurances that the petitioners therefor intend to become members of the same, and they shall present dimitts from the Chapters of their affiliations ; or, if they do not hold membership in any Chapter, they shall present satisfactory certificates of their standing as Royal Arch Masons ; and before they shall be entitled to the privileges of membership in the new Chapter they must have signed the by-laws thereof ; and any one neglecting this duty for the space of six months shall be subject to ballot for membership in the manner as is usual with Companions coming by dimit."

The questions as to when elections shall be held, and how vacancies in the several offices of a Chapter can be made and filled, were brought to the attention of the Grand Chapter by the Grand High Priest in his address of March, 1870, and referred to a special committee for report. No action, however, was taken upon the same, as shown by the proceedings, but as the report is based upon well-settled principles of Masonic law, we take it for granted that the report was adopted, and therefore insert it as follows :

"1st. That the officers must be elected at the annual meeting, as provided in the By-Laws.

"2d. That election to office at any other than the annual meeting can only be had by authority of a dispensation granted and obtained therefor.

"3d. That appointed officers only may be removed or suspended from exercising the functions of their office by the High Priest ; but such removal or suspension should be announced in open Chapter, by the High Priest, and a proper record be made of the same.

"4th. That after installation, vacancies in elective offices can only be filled by dispensation, as provided in the second recommendation ; but vacancies in appointed offices may be filled by the High Priest, who may appoint a Companion to serve *pro tempore*, as occasion requires.

"Vacancies in the list of elective offices may occur by failure to elect at the annual meeting, by act of the Grand High Priest, or Grand Chapter, or by death. In either or any case the Chapter has no control over it, and can only fill such vacancy by dispensation.

"How far or how much the question of vacancies may be affected by removal, dimitts, or kindred questions, the committee have not deemed within the scope of their present duty. None of these can alter the manner of filling them."

We extract the following from the address of the Grand High Priest, delivered at the Annual Convocation, held December 12, 1871, as showing the condition of the Royal Craft in the old "Bay State :"

"COMPANIONS : As the annual recurrence of our New England Festival, just passed, calls together the scattered members of the family around the ancestral board, so this, our Annual Convocation, brings the representatives of our scattered family from all parts of the State, and we gather here around our revered parental head, to strengthen by closer contact, interchange of thought and feeling, and the intermingling of sympathies, the fraternal bonds which bind us one to another, and to our common parent. As the official head of this Grand Chapter, I welcome

you again, one and all, to the old home, and extend to you a warm parental greeting, offering you its fullest hospitalities.

"As in that festival alluded to they are wont, as they gather at the family board, to recount the blessings and joys, and perchance the sorrows, of the past year, so it is fitting that on this occasion we too should review the events of the year now closing, and recall whatever of blessing, or the reverse, we may have received. Thanks to a kind and merciful Providence, we have little except blessings to speak of. Peace, harmony, and almost uninterrupted prosperity have been ours, and for this let us be devoutly grateful to our Supreme High Priest, without whose blessing all our efforts are vain."

If more attention was given by the Companions in every Jurisdiction to the subjects referred to in the following extract from the same address, the benefits which would result therefrom would more than repay for the time and trouble it would take the Companions to inform themselves on these important subjects:

"I took occasion, in my address to you one year ago, to speak at some length of the importance of a thorough and intelligent study of the meaning, symbolism, and beauties of the sublime degrees of the Chapter, a correct practice of the ceremonies, and an impressive rendering of the ritual. I am happy to say that this is receiving more and more attention in all parts of the Jurisdiction. A great improvement has taken place in the manner of doing the work within a few years, and Capitular Masonry is beginning to assume more and more the importance which properly belongs to it, and to command more of the attention of the thoughtful and intelligent among the Fraternity. It will well bear all the research and investigation we can give it, and I am sure no one will regret the time given to an intelligent study of it, but will be amply repaid by the unfolding of the hidden treasures found in its beautiful lessons and symbolisms."

Upon the subject of official visits to the various constituent Chapters, the Grand High Priest says:

"No doubt much good results from frequent official visits to the several Chapters. I think each Chapter should be visited, by some one officially delegated, once a year. Though I have not been able to visit all of them as often as this, I have visited every Chapter in the State during my term of office, most of them twice, and several of them each year, in most cases taking quite a delegation with me. I believe that this has accomplished good, and that the Chapters are in much better condition for it. Some of the Chapters had never received an official visit before, and were much encouraged by it. The Chapters have now become so numerous that the continuance of the visits as heretofore involves too much tax on the time of your officers, and is accompanied by too much expense. I would recommend, therefore, that hereafter each Chapter be annually assigned by the Grand High Priest to some member of the Grand Council or other competent officer, whose duty it shall be to visit it during the year, examine its charter, records, by-laws, facilities for and mode of work, security from observation, &c., and report to the Grand High Priest; or else, that the State be districted and assigned to deputies, who shall perform the same duty."

This subject we deem to be of very great importance, knowing as we do, from our experience in the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, where it is made the duty of the Grand Master, accompanied by the other Grand officers, to make an annual visit to each Lodge, and examine into the affairs of each, and trust that our Grand Chapter will adopt the system of Grand Visitations, as its tendency is to stimulate the Companions to bring everything pertaining to the working of the Chapters to the highest state of perfection.

The Grand High Priest, speaking of the triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, says :

“While we would not for a moment detract from the proud honor won by our Companions, by this more than liberal hospitality, it is a serious question whether this desire of the Fraternity in each place of meeting to excel in the hospitality that of the preceding place, and the time given to public parades, entertainments, banquets, etc., is not becoming altogether too expensive, and interfering too much with the legitimate business of the Bodies. The feeling that this is so, doubtless contributed to the final conclusion that it was better that the meetings of the General Grand Chapter should hereafter be held at a different time and place from those of the Grand Encampment, and it was decided to hold the next triennial of the former at Nashville, Tenn.”

To this we say, Amen, and trust that, hereafter the meetings of the two Grand Bodies will be held at different times and at different places. Let the General Grand Chapter attend to its own business, without reference to the convenience and desire of those who, it seems to us, of late think more of making a show with their fancy uniforms than of attending to the interests of the Craft. We are therefore in favor of a change, and trust that we will be supported in our view by all who have the interests of the Craft at heart.

The Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was recognized, and “cordially welcomed into the family of Grand Royal Arch Chapters.”

The one cent contribution to the General Grand Chapter was voted.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is again from the pen of our old friend, Comp. Dadmun, and is an excellent paper, reviewing in a very satisfactory manner the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters, the District of Columbia, for 1871, receiving a fraternal notice. It was our intention to quote quite largely from this report, but having devoted so much space to the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, we must content ourselves with a single extract.

In his review of the address of Comp. Kellogg, Grand High Priest of Georgia, he says :

“Some of his language more than intimates that he believes Freemasonry to be a Divine institution. If this is his opinion we think he is greatly mistaken. ‘Freemasonry,’ says a learned author, ‘is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.’ It is no more Divine than a temperance society or any other organization instituted for the purpose of promoting good morals. While we have

just reason to be proud of the *principles* of the Order, let us be careful not to claim for it the 'resplendent light of Divine inspiration.' Masonry was first operative, then speculative. *Speculative Masonry* is of much more recent date than the Christian Church, and is a help to a religious life only so far as its sublime principles are exemplified in the lives of its members."

In this we fully concur, and trust the time is near at hand when our Companions will see the impropriety of advancing such ideas as those put forth by Comp. Kellogg.

We are sorry to see that Comp. Dadmun still persists in advocating the use of substitutes. We hope he will see his error before long, and take his position in the swelling ranks of those who favor a strict construction of the O. B.

We are gratified at being able to announce that our old friend, Comp. A. F. Chapman, of Boston, has been elected Grand High Priest, and Comp. Z. H. Thomas, jr., of Boston, has been elected to succeed Comp. Chapman as Grand Secretary.

Number of chartered Chapters, 57. Number of R. A. A. Masons, 6,853.

MAINE.

The Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in the city of Portland, May 7, 1872. M. E. Comp. S. J. Young, Grand High Priest, presided, with representatives present from thirty-four Chapters.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, which is devoted principally to matters of local interest. He announced in appropriate terms the death of P. G. H. Priest A. B. Thompson, to whose memory the Grand Chapter passed suitable resolutions and directed that a memorial page be set apart in the proceedings.

He reported the following decision as having been rendered by him during the year :

"An officer is legally elected and presents himself for installation, when a Companion objects to his installation on account of his bad moral character. Can he be installed?

Ans. He cannot be installed until the charges are investigated and refuted. The objection of one Companion, if found valid, is sufficient to prevent the installation of any officer of a Chapter."

This decision was approved by the Grand Chapter in the adoption of the following report on the subject from the Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom the same had been referred :

"The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred the decision of the Grand High Priest in relation to objections to the installation of an officer, ask leave to report that the same is undoubtedly correct and should be approved.

"As the question is a new one in this jurisdiction, the committee deem it proper to make a more detailed statement of the law bearing upon it.

"When objections are made by a member of a Chapter to the install-

ation of an officer, elect or appointed in such Chapter, the installing officer should at once require the reasons for such objection. If the reasons are not given, or are deemed by him insufficient, if sustained, he should proceed with the installation. If the reasons given are deemed sufficient, the installing officer should fix a time and place for a hearing, and notify the parties and hear them. If, upon such hearing, the objections are sustained in his opinion, he should so notify the parties forbidding the installation, and a new election should be ordered. This ends the matter, unless an appeal is taken. If the installing officer is not the Grand High Priest, either party may appeal to him, and his decision is final.

"If the Grand High Priest investigates the matter and sustains the objections, whether originally or on appeal, his order in the premises should be entered of record in the Chapter, and that vacates the election, and it is no longer of any more force than if it had never taken place; and his decision is final, and from it there is no appeal. If the objections are not sustained by him, the officer should of course be installed."

It was voted that one cent per member, asked for by the General Grand Chapter, be "collected and paid."

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. Drummond, in which he reviews, in his usually fine style, the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, and thirty-eight Grand Chapters, the District of Columbia, for 1871, being among the number. His review of our proceedings is confined to denials of the charges made against him by Comp. Mason in his last report. In reply to Comp. Mason's charge that he had turned a "double somersault" on the substitute question, he says:

"Most men would hold that a suppression of what he has suppressed is equivalent to misrepresentation. We found the ancient practice and the ritual in conflict, and recommended that the General Grand Chapter be requested to conform the ritual (changed by Webb) to the practice. The last sentence quoted is wholly untrue. We had no knowledge of those resolutions till they had been adopted; and if we had been present should have voted against them."

By this it will be seen that Comp. Drummond is, under present circumstances, *opposed to the use of substitutes*, and our only regret is that he was not present in the General Grand Chapter to speak and vote against the resolutions that were adopted.

In reviewing the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, he gives a list of the Grand Chapters that were represented, and says: "The Grand High Priest of Rhode Island was present at the opening, and his name was properly enrolled among the representatives." We submit to Comp. Drummond that this is not a fair statement of the facts in the case. Comp. Doyle was in Baltimore, attending the General Grand Encampment, and happened to be in the Chapter Chamber conversing with some of the Companions when the gavel of the General Grand High Priest fell, but left at once.

When the roll was called, Comp. Doyle did not respond. He was sent

for, but did not return to the General Grand Chapter, for the reason, as understood at that time, that he had not been sent by his Grand Chapter. Under these circumstances is it right to say that he was *properly enrolled among the representatives*, and thereby make it appear that Rhode Island was represented, when in fact she was not?

We find a good many things in this report which we would like to lay before our Companions, but space will not permit, inasmuch as we desire to insert in full the very interesting and instructive reply of Comp. Drummond to Comp. Pillan's remarks on the origin of the General Grand Chapter, as published in our review of the Proceedings of Alabama, which should be read in connection with this reply. Comp. Drummond says:

"Comp. P. J. Pillan's presented the Report on Correspondence, (55 pages.) In his review of Arkansas, while admitting that suspension for unmasonic conduct by the Lodges suspends in the Chapter, he doubts whether restoration by the Lodge restores him to membership in the Chapter.

"He discusses the General Grand Chapter, but does not reply to our questions of last year. He starts by asking, 'But whence did the General Grand Chapter derive its powers?' and answers it as follows: 'From those, certainly, who constituted it—the State Grand Chapters.' He founds his remaining argument on this. It is evident that he *is entirely in error*, and we ask him to examine the Compendium of the Proceedings of the General Grand Chapter. He will find that, as we have been telling him, he *reverses the facts. The General Grand Chapter was not created by State Grand Chapters, but it antedates every one of them which are its constituents, and every one of them was created by its authority and under its Constitution.*

"Let us examine its history briefly. Delegates from the subordinate Chapters of several States met January 24, 1798, and formed a Grand Chapter for the Northern States. It was provided in its Constitution that there should be in each of the States within its jurisdiction a *Deputy Grand Chapter*, consisting of a *Deputy Grand High Priest*, King, Scribe, &c., who should be the Representatives of their Deputy Grand Chapter in the Grand Chapter. Accordingly, 'agreeably to the sixth article of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of the Northern States of America,' the representatives of the Chapters in New York met March 14, 1798, and organized the *Deputy Grand Chapter of New York*. In the same manner, on the twelfth of June, 1798, the *Deputy Grand Chapter of Massachusetts* was organized. The same thing was done in Rhode Island in March, 1797, and in Connecticut May 17, 1798. There were no other Grand Chapters in the country, save one in Pennsylvania, appended to and under the control of the Grand Lodge. It has, however, recently been discovered that one had been formed in Maryland, but how it is not known, as none of the records have been found.

"On January 9, 1799, the Grand Chapter of the Northern States met, having under it the four *Deputy Grand Chapters* above named, being all there then were in the country. It then amended its Constitution, taking the name of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the Northern States, and provided that the Deputy Grand Chapters should in future be styled 'State Grand Chapters.' And they were granted power to issue warrants for new Chapters in their several jurisdictions, except that (until Grand Chapters should be formed therein) Vermont was placed under the jurisdiction of New York, and New Hampshire under that of Massachusetts. Subordinate Chapters, when constituted, were required to

conform "in all their doings to the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter." In 1804 the Grand Chapter of Vermont was formed under this authority.

"In 1806 the General Grand Chapter met again, all the Grand Chapters then existing (except the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, which had not then become independent, but was still governed by the Grand Lodge) being represented, and amended its Constitution by changing its name to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and giving to State Grand Chapters the power to issue warrants for new Chapters in their several jurisdictions, and reserving to itself the sole power to issue them for Chapters in any State in which there was not a Grand Chapter. It also provided that when three Chapters had been formed in any State under that Constitution, a Grand Chapter might be formed therein with the approbation of one of the first four General Grand Officers, in one year after the establishment of the junior Chapter in the State. Two dispensations (one for South Carolina and one for Georgia) having been issued by the General Grand Officers, they were confirmed by the General Grand Chapter.

"It was further provided that every officer on his installation, and every candidate on his admission, should take the following obligation: 'I, A. B., do promise and swear that I will support and maintain the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution.'

"It next met in 1816. The Grand Chapter of Maryland had then been reorganized and was admitted under the authority of the General Grand Chapter; the Grand Chapter of Virginia had been formed by Chapters appendant to Lodges, and has remained independent ever since, and the Grand Chapter of South Carolina had been formed under its authority by Chapters chartered by it.

"It next met in 1819. The Grand Chapters of Kentucky, Ohio and New Hampshire had then been formed under its authority and were admitted to representation.

"It next met in 1826. The Grand Chapters of Maine, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, New Jersey and the District of Columbia had been formed in accordance with its constitution and under its authority, and most of them by Chapters chartered directly by it. No other Grand Chapter was formed, except as hereinafter stated, till 1845; and in the mean time the Grand Chapters of Vermont, New Jersey, District of Columbia, North Carolina and Georgia had succumbed to the anti-Masonic storm, and only one (Georgia in 1841) had been reorganized. But the General Grand Chapter had held its regular convocations.

"Now, Comp. Pillans, does not this history completely dispose of your argument, that the State Grand Chapters are the *parents* of the General Grand Chapter?

"But we are not yet done with you. We have given the general history, and we now propose to make an application to Alabama in particular. We have stated that the Grand Chapter of Alabama was formed in 1823. An attempt was made to do so. Four Chapters had been chartered by the *General Grand High Priest*. A meeting was called for May 19, 1823, but there was a disagreement as to the time and place, and only two Chapters were represented; on the twenty-first, no delegate from the other two had arrived, but a Constitution was adopted, and on the next day a Grand Chapter was organized. Whether more than two Chapters were then represented does not appear; but as the junior Chapter was not a year old, the General Grand Chapter in 1826 decided that the action was void, and the Grand Chapter could not be recognized.

"It, however, confirmed the charters which had been issued by that Grand Chapter, authorized and recommended the four Chapters created by itself to form a Grand Chapter at an early day. Accordingly the del-

egates from those four Chapters met June 2, 1827, and formed a Grand Chapter, which met regularly till 1830, but then suspended. On December 8, 1837, the representatives of the Chapters then working in Alabama met and adopted the following resolution :

“ *Resolved*, That the representatives of the several Chapters, now present, proceed to form a Grand Royal Arch Chapter, *according to the provisions of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States*, the former Grand Chapter of this State having failed to hold the constitutional meetings for the last seven years ’

“ And in accordance therewith organized the Grand Chapter.

“ For more than thirty years every officer at his installation, and every candidate at his admission, in Alabama, took a solemn obligation to support and maintain the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, as the supreme governing body in the United States : the Constitution of the Grand Chapter declared that it was under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, and adopted the Constitution of the latter as a part of itself. In December, 1860, a revised Constitution containing the same provisions was reported, received, and in accordance with the requirements in amending the Constitution, entered on the minutes, published with the proceedings and laid over to the next Convocation for action, when it purports to have been unanimously adopted. But at that same Convocation (1861) the following resolution was adopted with but one dissenting vote :

“ *Resolved*, That the connection subsisting between the Grand Chapter of Alabama and the General Grand Chapter of the United States be and the same is hereby dissolved.’

“ This seems to be an attempt to amend the Constitution by simple resolution ; but it may be that the revised Constitution was amended accordingly and unanimously adopted, *without lying over one year, as the Constitution itself required*. If we look to the validity of the proceedings, either horn of the dilemma would seem to be fatal to them. But we do not mention this to make a point of it. We desire to ask Comp. Pillans if this action was consistent with the obligations which he and his associates have many times taken in relation to the General Grand Chapter ? It was taken in dark and troublous times ; but now it can be examined in the light of history and in the absence of the terrible excitement attending its adoption. Can it be sustained ? If not, we know our Alabama Companions too well to argue that if it cannot be on the score of duty, considerations of policy and usefulness do not have a feather’s weight.

“ We call upon our Companions to point out, if he can, a single error in our historical statement ; and if he cannot, to answer the question squarely, whether the General Grand Chapter is not the parent of the Grand Chapters : and if it is, whether the jurisdiction it has over them can be thrown off by them, without its consent ; and whether we can thus be absolved from the obligations we have voluntarily taken to support it.

“ We have devoted this space to this question to dispose of it once for all, and because Comp. Pillans invited this discussion by taking issue with us in a former report, and maintaining that the State Grand Chapters constituted the General Grand Chapter, as he does in the report now under review.”

Comp. Drummond considers it improper for him, while holding the position of General Grand High Priest, to continue as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and was, at his request, relieved from further service in that capacity. He concludes his report as follows :

"We have prepared the report on correspondence for this Grand Chapter (as well as the other Grand Bodies) for the past eight years. Comp. Pearl, our predecessor, served fourteen years in the Grand Chapter and seventeen in the Grand Lodge. The labor, formerly but trifling, has come to be very great. As the labor of preparing these reports has increased, so has their importance; and we consider this department of Masonic labor as one of the most important and responsible in the whole routine.

"For the reason given in the first paragraph of our report, we now retire from the committee in the Grand Chapter. Other reasons tend to the same result, if that were not of itself decisive. We have learned that the time to which we all look forward, when our other labors will be less and we have more time to devote to Masonry, is always *coming*, and as we grow older is more and more distant.

"The performance of the duties of this committee has been exceedingly pleasant and agreeable. The acquaintance we have formed with Companions, many of whom we have never met, or if at all, but once or twice, is worth a whole lifetime of labor; but in this case the labor paid for itself in the instruction we have received.

"To our Companions of other committees, who have so uniformly treated us with loving kindness, we have no words to express our feelings. In taking leave of them, we are sundering cords intertwined with our very heart-strings. We shall be glad to continue to receive their reports, and will continue to preserve them in permanent form.

"To the Companions of Maine we need not say that their appreciation of our labors has been our most precious reward. Many as are the honors we have received at their hands, we regard our appointment to this position, and the approval we have had of our labors in it, as the most desirable honor of all. And we say frankly, that while it is a relief to us (and one that was imperatively demanded) to be freed from the labor of preparing these reports, we have never retired from any position with more regret. But we have one consolation—*with you* we can continue to labor for the advancement of Masonry, with an appreciation of its worth and devotion to its interests increased in proportion to the time and labor we have given to it."

Comp. John W. Ballou, of Bath, was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. Ira Berry, of Portland, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 34. Number of R. A. A. Masons, 3,319.

MINNESOTA.

For the first time (regularly) in the history of our Grand Chapter, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence has the pleasure of presenting to the Companions of this District a review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota. The volume which we have received contains the proceedings of its Eleventh Annual Convocation, which was held in the city of St. Paul on the 9th of January, 1872. M. E. Comp. G. W. Merrill, Grand High Priest, presided. Sixteen Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered a most excellent and interesting address. On the condition of the craft in his jurisdiction he remarks:

"The Chapters of this jurisdiction are in general enjoying a fair degree of prosperity, and no case of discord has come to my knowledge. The principles of the Royal Art are exerting their beneficent influence, and

the mission of Freemasonry, to harmonize the differences and ameliorate the asperities of life, is not forgotten."

Speaking of his visit to Baltimore to attend the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, he says :

"The traditional hospitality of Baltimore, its officials and citizens generally, as well as the members of our Fraternity, was tendered without reservation to the visiting Companions and Sir Knights, thus evidencing, in the most gratifying manner, the respect and honor with which our beloved institution is recognized by impartial men. An institution that holds in its bosom half a million of the best citizens of the country—a brotherhood confined to no section, that knows no North, no South, no East, no West, may well claim recognition as a power in the land—not a political power, nor one that holds to any particular creed save the broad one 'to fear God and keep His commandments' Well may the votaries of an institution so powerful in numbers, and founded on the principles of virtue, morality, truth, justice, toleration, look with pity on the puny efforts of a few unwise sectarians and a few politicians who latterly have undertaken to inaugurate a new crusade against Freemasonry, and have delighted to assume the role of the 'dog baying the moon,' and who will, probably, reap no better reward than which attends such canine efforts."

Referring to the fearful conflagrations which spread over several of the Western States last fall, and the helpless condition in which many persons have been left, he sets forth the duty of universal charity taught by our institution as follows :

"The mission of Freemasonry is not fulfilled in caring for those of its own household only. Its duties and aims are higher and broader, and scorn to be circumscribed by any policy so narrow and selfish. I desire to call your attention to this matter, that some practical plan may be devised to help those who need far more than we are able to bestow. Let us remember that He who spake as never man spake has said that 'with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.'"

The following remarks of Comp. Merrill are commended to the especial attention of the Companions of this District, as they apply in a great measure to other jurisdictions besides that of Minnesota:

"Companions, my observation during the past few years convinces me that Royal Arch Masonry in this State does not occupy that position of prominence which it holds in many other States, nor that to which it is entitled by its merits. The Capitular Degrees are lightly esteemed by many, are said to be modern in their origin and the system crude in its construction. I have been pained at hearing remarks in derogation of the usefulness of these degrees, and declaring their claims to antiquity to be a fraud upon the craft, and we have known of cases where these degrees have been used and valued chiefly as a sort of ladder to reach something higher and supposed to be better, and consequently, when that end has been reached, but little interest has been manifested in this branch of Masonry.

"Why should such be the case? Are these degrees, or, in fact, any other Masonic degrees, valuable chiefly for their *antiquity* or for the *moral*

lessons which they inculcate and the incentives which they offer to us to contend earnestly for that which is Just, Right, and True?

"Do they commend themselves to us chiefly as being links in a chain to join us with the past ages of the world, and as a means to trace our genealogy to the old builders of those splendid monuments of antiquity which have for ages past and which will for all time to come excite the admiration of the world; or rather, as a brotherhood of living, busy men, pledged to live virtuously, bound to aid, support, and protect each other in certain conditions, and each needing the encouragement and help in the struggles of life which such a Fraternity might afford?

"And where in Masonry are more important lessons inculcated for the practical duties of life than in the Capitular Degrees? I know not how any one who has been 'marked' technically can ever forget or lightly esteem the moral precepts or the practical lessons so beautifully taught in the ritual of that degree; nor how any intelligent and thoughtful brother who has seen the cap-stone deposited with shouting and praise can fail to see the significance of that beautiful ceremony, that is typical of the last act in the drama of his own life, which, if it has been built upon the sure foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, will, in its last scene, be celebrated by actors unseen by mortal eyes, shouting Grace! Grace unto it! Nor do I know how one who has been exalted in due form can fail to realize that there has been, in reality, an exaltation: that he stands on a higher level, has received new light, and thenceforth his Masonic labors are to be directed to the building of his spiritual house, which is to abide eternally, upon the foundation stones of which, and upon its pillars and door-posts and cap-stones, is to be inscribed 'Holiness to the Lord!'

"It is not uncommon, of late, for Masonic writers and reviewers to speak and write disparagingly of the labors of those Companions who were prominent in the Order at the commencement of the present century, and who are known as the fathers of the American system of Capitular Masonry. They are accused of manufacturing the degrees, or of stealing and revamping certain degrees and forming them into the system that we now work. If this charge be true, and probably none will dispute it at the present day, are they alone, of all the degree makers of the last century, worthy of censure? Was it more culpable to manufacture Masonry in 1797 or 1798 than during the years from 1740 to 1760? Or was it more blameworthy to remodel modern degrees in 1798 than to manipulate really ancient degrees in 1718?

"I believe it to be a great misfortune to Masonry that there are so many degrees in existence, but it is evident to me that the system that this Grand Chapter is to preserve and perpetuate is as legitimate as any other, excepting, of course, Ancient Craft Masonry. It should be judged by its merits; and while I would not stifle inquiry, nor fear to bring to the light everything that lies about or has been wrought into the foundation or superstructure of our Temple of Royal Arch Masonry, I believe too much prominence has been given by many to the question of *antiquity*. One might judge from the talk of some good brethren that it were more useful and honorable to be a dried and shrunken mummy, encased in the casements in which it was wrapped 3,000 years ago, and set up against the wall in some museum for the public to gaze at in wonder and awe, than to be a living soul, alive to all the great interests that concern humanity, and susceptible itself of endless improvement, and conscious of its responsibilities, and ever ready to

" 'Act, act in the living present,
A heart within and God o'erhead' "

"So much said and written in disparagement of Capitular Masonry cannot fail to disaffect the hearts of Companions, producing distrust and lukewarmness."

He announces the death of Comp. E. A. Groff, Past Grand Scribe, and Comp. Emanuel Case, Past Grand Treasurer, in appropriate terms.

A charter was ordered to be issued for a Chapter to be located in Duluth.

The time for holding the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was changed to the 24th of June.

There is no general report on Foreign Correspondence, as Comp. A. T. C. Pierson, chairman of the committee, failed to present it in due time. There is, however, what seems to be a special report. made by the Grand Secretary, embracing only the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia for the years 1867, 1869, 1870, and 1871. It would seem from the opening of this report that the news has just been received in Minnesota that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia is really a regular body, and recognized everywhere. Better late than never. He then comments on the subject as follows:

"DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

"The existence of this Grand Chapter has been practically ignored by our Grand Chapter, owing to some misunderstanding, or perhaps more properly speaking, some 'unpleasantness' which has existed between the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota and the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, growing out of the questions involved in the organization of the latter Grand Chapter.

"Without entering into any discussion as to whether the organization of said Grand Chapter was in some respects irregular or not, we believe we should acquiesce in the decision of the General Grand Chapter, and imitating the worthy example afforded by the final action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, extend to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia the fraternal greetings of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota."

The unpleasantness was not caused by a difference of opinion as to the regularity of our formation, but other things which need not be mentioned, Comp. Pierson knows.

Comp. J. H. McKenney was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. Wm. S. Combs was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 20. Number of R. A. Masons not given.

MICHIGAN.

We have received the proceedings of the Twenty-third Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, which was held in the city of Detroit, January 3d, 4th, and 5th, 1872. M. E. Com. Hugh McCurdy, Grand High Priest, presided.

Seventy-seven Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered one of the most beautiful and interesting addresses we have had the pleasure to read. He commenced it as follows :

"Coming as you do from the subordinate tribunals and working Chapters of our jurisdiction, and knowing each throb and pulsation of the great heart of the Masonry, you meet again upon the threshold of a new convocation, to survey its progress and unite your counsels for its future welfare. The cycle which brings you again in general consultation, proclaims that another year has been harvested to eternity; but whether the stores garnered by you in the field of our Companionship, during its revolution, have been for weal or woe is now to be considered by you, as stewards of a great and exalted charity. In the olden theocratic governments it was wisely taught that man's necessities required not alone fixed periods for rest, but also fixed times for reflection. Animated, then, by the spirit of love and fraternity, and forsaking for a time the cares of daily avocation and the comforts of home, you come up here in a spirit fragrant with the blossoms of love and the flowers of obedience, to give such direction to united labors as will continue to strengthen the bonds and increase the usefulness of our beloved Order. Not in the spirit of the old Egyptian do you come up to this temple to bow down to the idols of Isis, nor yet like the haughty Roman whose love it was to worship the sceptre of the Cæsars; for you have come imbued with "Faith in God, Hope in Immortality and Charity to all Mankind"—that you may legislate for our common brotherhood, to the end that additional strength and vitality may be given to an institution which has accomplished for man more true glory than was ever reflected from Egyptian altar-fires or the halo that sparkled from the jewels of Cæsar's crown. Into your hands, Companion legislators, is intrusted the continued welfare of our Order. We have built a gorgeous temple whose foundation, if well guarded, must endure until "the last syllable of recorded time." Upon its golden altars let the ruder and darker shades of humanity be mellowed into light, and around the pillars which sustain the edifice let there be engraved, in letters of living fire—This our mission, and this our work—to refine society and cultivate man's moral power—to strengthen our faith in the great law of compensation, giving divinity to hope, and eternity to time. For these splendid results, which the instrumentality of man has brought about, and upon which we may look with such admiring affection, it becomes us always to lay the tribute of our fervent gratitude at the foot of that throne, whose Almighty occupant has nourished our weakness into strength, and rendered harmless the darts of detraction; and let us, with these thank-offerings, send up earnest petitions to our good Father, gushing warm from the heart, that His protecting arm may never be withdrawn, but that in his all-wise counsels it may be ordained that our beloved Order shall still advance in its hallowed mission of Faith, Hope and Charity."

Referring to the "gradual advancement and increasing strength of that benign influence which, under the fostering care of our Royal Art, is being felt and acknowledged in every part of the State," he says:

"In its noble career of beneficence, its gentle blessings continue to disarm prejudice and silence slander, crushing sectarian bigotry in its mighty tread, and firmly establishing a proud claim to pre-eminence among those whose agency it is to soften the asperities of life and lead hope to brighter gleams of eternal sunshine. From this proud eminence, upon which our institution now stands, we can witness the development of its work and the practical fruits of its mission. Harmony and brotherly love prevail throughout its borders, and not a zephyr disturbs the surface of its moral field. The truth of its principles, the beauty of its work, and the eminently practical nature of its operations, taking the victorious past as our guarantee, will in the long future continue to wed to its fraternal rank the wise and good of all conditions in the family of man."

We agree fully with Comp. McCurdy in the following views which he expresses :

“CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

“Section 2, Article VI, provides that no petition shall be received for conferring the Chapter degrees until the applicant has been a Master Mason three months. Masonic law establishes the fact that suspension or expulsion from the Blue Lodge has a like effect on all the higher degrees of Masonry, thereby recognizing and acknowledging the fact that Blue Lodge Masonry is the foundation of all the higher degrees. Such being the case, I am of the opinion that the petition of a non-affiliated Mason cannot be received by a Chapter; also, after a Brother receives the Chapter degrees he should belong to a Blue Lodge. Cases may arise where a Companion withdraws from his Lodge for the purpose of removal, and cannot perhaps be received into the Lodge located at the place to which he has removed. In such case a hardship might arise, yet I am inclined to the opinion that where a Companion is dimitted from a Blue Lodge, and *voluntarily remains non-affiliated* for the space of three months, he shall be expelled from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry. Under this view, should not a constitutional amendment or an edict be passed regulating the subject?”

Speaking of the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, he says :

“As a whole, the session was a pleasant, agreeable, and interesting one, and afforded an excellent opportunity to cultivate the true spirit of brotherly love and affection, besides making important changes in the ritual, which will hereafter be explained.”

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted the following, which was adopted by the Grand Chapter :

“As to question 1, viz : ‘A candidate is elected to take the Chapter degrees, and is advanced to the honorary degree of a Mark Master, and is prepared to receive the next degree when a Companion objects to his further advancement. What is to be done in such a case?’ We concur in the view taken by the M. E. Grand High Priest in his answer to that question, that if objections are made to the further advancement of the brother, that it is the duty of the High Priest to require those objections to be presented in the form of charges and specifications, and in case of neglect or refusal to so present them, that the candidate will be entitled to receive the degrees. And we would recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

“*Resolved*, That whenever a candidate shall have been duly elected to take the Chapter degrees, and shall have received either the degree of Mark Master, Past Master or Most Excellent Master, if objection be made by a Companion to his further advancement, it shall be the duty of the High Priest to require the objector to file charges and specifications against the brother, and in case he neglects or refuses to do so, the High Priest may proceed to confer the remaining degrees upon the candidate.”

We do not approve of this, but hold to the ancient rule, that no one

has the right to call in question the reasons which an objecting Companion may entertain at any stage of the proceedings.

The contribution of one cent per member was made to the General Grand Chapter.

Five new Chapters were chartered.

Comp. J. Eastman Johnson, Grand Secretary, presented the report on Foreign Correspondence; and a most excellent document it is, in which he reviews the proceedings of thirty-seven State Grand Chapters, and the General Grand Chapter—the District of Columbia for 1871 receiving quite an extended notice.

He opens his report with the following beautiful language :

It is an especially noticeable fact that on the ushering in of Christmas day, the world was once more the witness of the reign of universal peace. The jubilee of Christianity has become the jubilee of the whole earth. In a restricted, but still interesting sphere, we, as Masons, may also send forth joyously our voices of exultation. From all the borders of our more than Imperial domain, Peace proclaims her triumphs. 'Peace and Harmony' is heard from the great central heart—New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and from the far East, the far West, and the far South, as well as along the Northern border, is echoed back the exulting song, 'Peace and Harmony.' So fully was this impression fixed on our minds—in our progress through the forty or more pamphlets it has been our pleasure, as well as duty, to examine—that we have omitted, as altogether unnecessary, our usual concise quotations on this topic, and rested in the above statement uttered by all in attestation of the fact, marking this as an epoch for thankfulness to the Divine Author of all true concord."

There are many passages in this report which we would like to lay before our Companions, but we have neither the time nor the space to do so. We will therefore content ourselves with giving Comp. Johnson's views on the substitute question, which are in accord with those of our Grand Chapter, as expressed in its action on the question. Under the head of Iowa, he says :

"COMP. PARVIN ON SUBSTITUTES.

"We are surprised that so intelligent a Mason as Comp. T. S. Parvin, (who was a delegate to the General Grand Chapter,) should have formed the idea that it was there demonstrated, as he asserts in his report, that the use of substitutes 'was the sole custom and manner of old.' The *permission* to use them was one thing. That their use was 'the *sole* custom and manner of old,' is quite another; and was not there 'demonstrated,' or even asserted, as we think, by anybody.

"Will Comp. Parvin please recur to the position on that subject of Comp. Drummond, (whom he so justly compliments as one of the 'most learned' among Masons,) who is on the record as maintaining, that the ritual and the practice '*are in direct conflict.*' Plainly the proper thing to do, is, to change the ritual or to change the practice."

Commenting on the report of Comp. Drummond, of Maine, on the question of substitutes, he says :

"If the *earliest* disclosure from the record shows that three brethren

were exalted together in 1797, in St. Andrew's Chapter, why is it not the logical conclusion that such had *always* been the practice? The facts stated by Comp. Drummond furnish but a feeble inference to the contrary. His language, viz: 'So far as the record discloses, it was not conferred upon three brethren together till 1797,' certainly does not show that the record discloses anything on the subject anterior to that date.

"But however the *practice* in that Chapter (or Lodge) may have been, it does presumptively appear from the report that the point on this subject was made in the ritual, at that time, (if not before,) by Webb or others, on which the whole trouble seems mainly to hang, inasmuch as that ritual, so revised, has been in almost universal use ever since.

"The fact so emphatically stated by Comp. Drummond, 'that the language of the ritual and the installation charge to a H. P. * * * *are in direct conflict with the practice,*' is too clear to admit of any denial. This fact led the committee to offer the second and third resolutions with which their report closes, which were adopted by the Grand Chapter of Maine.

"It is, in our judgment, to be regretted that the General Grand Chapter did not meet the case so fairly presented, and dispose of it on its true merits by changing the ritual or changing the practice. The action of that body on the question we shall refer to in our review of 'the General Grand Chapter.' "

Referring to the action of the General Grand Chapter on the substitute question in passing the resolution recognizing the use, he says :

"This action of the General Grand Chapter touching the use of substitutes we cannot regard as well taken.

"It might be admitted that the practice of using them is as old as the reorganization of St. Andrew's Chapter at Boston in 1769 ; that those New England Grand Chapters which have existed over fifty years had always so worked ; that a majority of other Grand Chapters have sanctioned the usage, and that it has been found *inconvenient* in many localities to work without them ; yet the conceded fact that the point of the ritual on this topic, from the time of Webb, about 1795, has been incorporated into the esoteric work almost universally, and the resulting fact that the work presents a direct 'conflict' with the practice, however sanctioned by time and place, should have led the General Grand Chapter—we say with great deference—to a different solution of the question. To have temporized ; to have yielded to the pressure of the argument from convenience ; to have acted evasively on a distinction without a difference between the words 'candidates,' 'persons,' 'brothers,' or other terms, was not such action as might justly have been hoped for.

"Would it not have been better to have allowed full force to the slightest conscientious scruple, to have allowed plain words to mean the things more plainly indicated, and to have sought for a direct mode of doing away the annoying and needless 'conflict?' If the ritual is to remain as arranged over seventy years since, why not have met the point with manly firmness, and prohibited absolutely all deviation from its requirement? If for any reasons such settlement of the question was inexpedient, another course was plainly open, namely, to have instituted measures for eliminating the contested point from the ritual. This would have allowed an easy and direct return to what is claimed to have been the practice everywhere before the ritual was tampered with by inventors.

"Instead of either of these direct methods of ending the conflict, to have said in effect that the practice is allowable, but to have urged all,

for the good of the craft, not to follow it, thus tending to keep alive a diversity of opinion and practice, is not, we respectfully submit, an example of the highest wisdom."

Comp. Leonard H. Randall, of Grand Rapids, was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. J. Eastman Johnson, of Centreville, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 82. Number of R. A. Masons, 5,927.

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of New York was held in the city of Albany, commencing on the 6th day of February, 1872. M. E. R. G. Williams, Grand High Priest, presided. One hundred and seventy-five Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, which relates principally to matters of local interest, the opening paragraph of which we quote, as follows:

"Protected by the care and blessing of our Father in Heaven, we are assembled after another year's experience to consult together for the good of Royal Arch Masonry, and I extend to you my personal and official greeting. I know that I may rely upon your sympathy when I assure you that on the very threshold of the task I am about to perform I am awed by the consciousness that the eminent Companions who have performed in other years this very duty before me, are now looking down from their holy places on high to witness our zeal in our work of love, and to beckon us on to constancy and to renewed activity and consecration. Who shall estimate the value they assign to the noble and sacred lessons of our sublime institutions! Companions, shall we not be encouraged by the brightness of their example? Shall we be content with the beautiful ideal of Masonry, regardless of its conspicuous living embodiment? Can we lose sight of the fact that to exert its influence over others, it must first of all gain a complete ascendancy over ourselves? There is untold power in consistency, pre-eminently so in Masonry. Nor is there room for doubt that they so thought, believed, and acted who have finished their earthly course and are in the presence of the Lord Almighty above."

Referring to the harmonious relations existing between the Grand Chapter of New York and other Grand Chapters, he says:

"I take great pleasure in calling your attention to the excellent and harmonious relations existing between our own and concurrent Jurisdictions. Nothing but the utmost good feeling and cordiality has characterized the year's intercourse between this and sister Grand Chapters. Indeed, I think we may challenge any and all other associations or bodies of men, similarly situated, to a comparison of record either as to peaceful, quiet settlement of differences of opinion or conflict of claims, setting forth in the strongest light the great beauty of our system, Universal Brotherhood. Theorize as some will, argue as others may, the great

fact still exists that Royal Arch Masonry has a charm and a power unequaled and irresistible."

The following decisions were reported as having been rendered by the Grand High Priest during the year:

1. A Companion who has been duly elected and installed, and while serving as High Priest, cannot be a petitioner for a Dispensation to organize a new Chapter.

2. That two Chapters, having contiguous jurisdiction, cannot mutually agree to render inoperative the fundamental law of the Grand Chapter in admitting candidates.

He says :

"During the heat of summer, however, when the Chapters generally suspend work, leave of absence for six weeks was granted to the Grand Lecturer to visit London, England, with authority to exemplify the Capitular degrees before the Royal Craft of that city, and also to confer the Most Excellent Master's Degree upon Royal Arch Masons who had petitioned for the same. This was done by the assistance of four Companions from this jurisdiction, and at the Freemasons' Tavern. The opportunity of witnessing the exemplification of the degrees was highly appreciated, and the Companions of London expressed themselves as delighted, and even surprised, at the perfectness of the work in all its detail; and the manifestation of their gratitude was earnest and heartfelt at being placed in possession of one of the most beautiful degrees in Masonry."

By this action we think Comp. Williams exceeded his authority, and we feel very certain that had a Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia been so indiscreet as to have sent his Grand Visitor and Lecturer off on such a tour, his conduct would not have been commented upon in such mild terms as Comp. Williams' was by the Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom it was referred. In their report on this action they say :

"With respect to the authority given by the Grand High Priest to confer the Most Excellent Master's Degree upon Companions in London, the committee entertain very serious doubts, but are inclined to give the most favorable construction to its exercise in this particular. The Companions in London asked for a warrant for a Council in London to confer that degree. The Grand High Priest did not accede to that request, but did authorize the Grand Lecturer to confer that degree upon *properly qualified candidates*, and to exemplify the Capitular degrees.

"Now, as a matter of instruction merely, the Grand Lecturer did not need such authority, if he conceived he had a right to communicate it; and the authority thus given had no force or power beyond the limits of this jurisdiction, and the giving it did not put the Companions receiving it in lawful possession of the degree in question. We believe that it can only be properly conferred by a Chapter within our limits, upon proper application. But we are confident that the officers in question intended nothing improper or unlawful, but only meant an act of kindness and courtesy, and, above all, no intention or wish to invade or intrude upon

the jurisdiction of our Royal Arch Companions in England, an act which would meet with the most unqualified disapprobation of this Grand Chapter; and so believing, we pass the matter over, hoping that an experiment so doubtful and dangerous may not be repeated. If our Companions in England desire to possess this degree, an application upon the part of the proper Grand Body to the proper officers of the General Grand Chapter would meet with the most prompt and respectful attention.

* * * * *

"Fraternally submitted,

"JOHN L. LEWIS,
 "EZRA S. FARNUM,
 "JAMES M. AUSTIN,
 "HORACE S. TAYLOR,
 "JOHN W. SIMONS."

The first question presented in the foregoing report is, Who are properly qualified candidates for the M. E. M. Degree? We answer: Those who have been regularly elected to receive the same in a properly organized Chapter duly authorized to confer the degree. Such being the case, and the Grand Chapter of England not recognizing the degree, we ask, where did Comp. Chase find *properly qualified candidates* upon whom to confer the degree? Have those who received the degree from him been "properly received and acknowledged?" We say not, and we think that the distinguished Companions whose names are appended to this report owe it to themselves and the Craft in general to point out, in a clearer manner than they do in this report, where Comp. Williams received his authority for such action. Suppose one of those Companions who received this degree from Comp. Chase should present himself for admission into a M. E. M. Lodge in one of our Jurisdictions, and he was to inform the Committee on Examination that he received the degree from Comp. C., Grand Visitor and Lecturer of New York, in London, and not in a Chapter, would he be admitted? Why, certainly not. Such being the case, we ask what right has Comp. Williams, or any other Companion, to place Companions in the strange position he has placed those in London?

The one-cent tax to the General Grand Chapter was voted.

Charters for five new Chapters were ordered to be issued.

A testimonial was presented to Comp. Simons, "in recognition of his official services." What it was is not stated by the committee who made the purchase.

The Report of the Committee on Correspondence was presented by Comp. Joseph White, in which he reviews the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia for 1871 being among the number.

Comp. White, in this report, adopts the popular style—copious extracts and few comments. In conclusion, he says:

"Uniformity of ritual is still a subject of remark. What makes a man a Mason? It would not be very difficult to obtain absolute uniformity in regard to that question. The ceremonies are illustrations which may be,

and are, exhibited with more or less formality, without injury to the vital points. The uniformity of laws, rules, and regulations throughout the several Grand Jurisdictions appears to your committee to be of as much, if not more, importance to the well-being of the Fraternity than a *verbatim* uniformity of the ritual. With this view we append a resolution in regard thereto:

“*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to collate the rules, regulations, decisions, &c., of each of the Grand Chapters of our country, and submit them to the General Grand Chapter at its next session, for comparison and revision, if necessary to secure uniformity of action with each other Grand Jurisdiction.”

“A man once a member of the Masonic Fraternity is through life a member, unless such membership is forfeited by wilful neglect of Masonic duties, or unmasonic conduct, whereof he is duly convicted. With these views, we hold that a Brother or Companion removing from one Jurisdiction to another, having paid his dues and taken his dimit in good standing, ought not, when seeking admission to membership in his new residence, to be charged with adjoining fees, beyond the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter registry fees, to preserve his identity. He paid for his membership when initiated, and ought not to be chargeable a second time for it. We think all such charges are a violation of equitable Masonic principles; therefore—

“*Resolved*, That no adjoining fee shall be demanded of any Companion when applying for membership, beyond the Grand Chapter registry fees, which registry is necessary to trace his identity.

“The returns of the several Grand Lodges in the United States and Territories and the British Provinces in America show an aggregate of 7,595 Subordinate Lodges, 5,411 of which made returns of membership, &c., reporting 40,649 initiations, 4,944 deaths, and 445,245 members. About one fourth of the Lodges made no returns, and allowing said Lodges to be less numerous in membership than those returned, we may yet safely add one-seventh to the number, which would give an aggregate of 508,851 Master Masons in good standing.

“The proportion of Companions to Craft Masons is about one to five of the latter.

“Time, which heeds not rank or station, has again during the past year gathered from among the Craft his annual harvest for eternity. From the highest official to the humble Craftsman, Companions and Brethren have been called to present their work to the Master Overseer for inspection, and, we humbly trust, to receive the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

“The present report is the sixteenth which we have had the honor to present to this Grand Chapter. We cannot hope to have given satisfaction to all, but we flatter ourselves, from the repeated appointments upon the Committee of Correspondence, that our humble efforts have not been wholly without your approbation. We have honestly endeavored to give a plain but faithful account of the doings of other Grand Chapters of such matters as were of general interest to the Royal Craft, and particularly of such rulings and decisions upon questions of Masonic law as differed from our own. We claim to have acted conscientiously in our labors; and now, having passed the age allotted to man, ‘three score years and ten,’ we leave the labors of the future to younger and abler hands. Our prayers will henceforth be, as in the past, for the Masonic Fraternity, in union and harmony, ‘now and forever, one and inseparable.’”

Comp. Rees G. Williams, of Utica, was re-elected Grand High Priest,

and Comp. Christopher G. Fox, of Buffalo, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 184. Number of R. : A. : Masons, 17,017.

NEW JERSEY.

The Sixteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey was held in the city of Trenton, on the 11th day of September, 1872.

M. : E. : Comp. Rev. Wm. H. Jeffreys, Grand High Priest, presided.

Twenty-one Chapters were represented.

Comp. Jeffreys commences his annual address, as follows :

"Welcome ! thrice welcome ! yea ! by 'three times three' do I welcome you all to the Sixteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey.

"During the year that is past our country and our State has been visited by an awful scourge, which in the form of pestilence, has swept over the land, carrying hundreds and even thousands to untimely graves. Had any member of this Grand body been a victim of that pestilence, it would have been our duty to have gone to his relief, if there had appeared a greater probability of saving his life than of losing our own, and in the event of his death, we could not have refused to his body the sacred rite of Masonic burial, although the act might have been attended with difficulty and danger.

"We are not superstitious enough to believe that there is anything connected with Royal Arch Masonry calculated to prevent its votaries from taking the 'small pox' or any other prevailing contagion, but nevertheless, with gratitude to our Heavenly Father, we are permitted to record the fact that in the midst of surrounding death we have all been preserved alive. No member of this Grand Chapter has, during the past year, been called upon to exchange worlds ; no memorial page, with its solemn black border, looking like a funeral pall, will appear in our printed proceedings."

He then gives an account of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter at its triennial session in Baltimore, and says that his attendance upon the deliberations of that body was, perhaps, the most important official duty performed by him. After reciting the previous action of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey, in relation to the General Grand Chapter, he remarks :

"Companions, we may congratulate ourselves upon the fact that no other action was taken by this Grand Body in the way of dissolving connection with the General Grand Chapter, for time and experience has proved that the said organization may become the most valuable, useful, and important Masonic Grand Body on the North American Continent. The Triennial Convocation, held in Baltimore, instead of showing signs of an approaching dissolution, furnished most convincing evidences of an increased vitality, and gave abundant promise of a vigorous and glorious future.

"Your Grand High Priest was present every moment of every session of that General Grand Body, and was frequently surrounded by his associate Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey. Each of us

wearing our regalia, bearing upon it the insignia of the 'three plows' and other emblems from our State 'coat of arms,' it may have been *those plows*, or the fact that your representatives looked green and from the country, that led certain 'city chaps' to designate us as 'the agricultural delegation;' but, however, we received our full share of respect, which, as delegates from the Grand Chapter of New Jersey, we certainly would have demanded if it had not been cheerfully accorded."

We agree with the Grand High Priest that New Jersey received her full share of respect at this convocation. How could it be otherwise? The Grand High Priest occupied, during the entire session, a most prominent seat in the *sanctuary*, and frequently reminded the Companions, by his eloquent speeches, that New Jersey was present.

The following extracts from the address will be read with interest by the members of the General Grand Chapter, and will admonish them that hereafter, when they wish to carry any measure, they must show a due amount of respect to "the agricultural delegation:"

"Your representatives went to Baltimore under instructions from this Grand Body to vote against any effort to strike from the degrees of Capitular Masonry the degree of Past Master. Such an effort was made, but I am happy to inform you that it was defeated; and by the advocates of the measure its defeat was attributed mainly to the opposition it met with from New Jersey.

"By some mysterious fortune your representatives happened to be on the affirmative side of every proposition that finally succeeded and was adopted by the General Grand Body. This fact may have helped to make the impression upon our minds that all the decisions of that General Grand Convocation were eminently wise and good."

Who will dare say after this that the "agricultural delegation" is not powerful, although they "*looked green*!"

He approves of the entire proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, and thinks that the address of Comp. Austin was "a production worthy to emanate from a General Grand High Priest."

He calls upon the Grand Chapter to prove its "allegiance to the General Grand Chapter by paying into its treasury an annual tribute of one cent for each and every R. A. Mason whose name is upon the rolls of any of our subordinate Chapters," which was done. We trust the allegiance extends beyond the one cent tribute.

Comp. Jeffreys declined a re-election.

Three new Chapters were chartered.

Written reports were submitted by the Deputy Grand High Priest and Grand King, and a verbal report by the Grand Scribe, showing the condition of the Chapters committed to their care during the year. By these reports we learn that the Royal Craft is in a flourishing condition in this State.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is again from the pen of Comp. Thomas J. Corson, and is a very complete and interesting resume of the

proceedings of thirty-five State Grand Chapters and the General Grand Chapter. He devotes four pages to the District of Columbia—one quarter of a page to its proceedings, and three and three quarters of a page to Comp. Mason. He says our Grand High Priest took occasion in his annual address to “growl at the General Grand Chapter in a very ugly manner.” We think Comp. Corson must have lost his “specks” when reading our proceedings, as we have perused that document and found no traces of a “growl,” and we are sure our Grand High Priest did not “growl” at the time he delivered the address. He told some truths, and called things by their proper names; and if that is what is termed growling in New Jersey, we admit that he did “growl.” The remaining portion of his notice is confined to the report of Comp. Mason, which we will not quote. We trust, however, that as Comp. Mason has retired from the Committee on Correspondence, Comp. Corson will hereafter devote more of his time to our proceedings.

Comp. T. H. R. Redway, of New Brunswick, was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. John Woolverton, of Trenton, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 29. Number of R. A. Masons, 2,402.

NOVA SCOTIA.

We have received the proceedings of two emergent, and the Second Annual Convocation of this young Grand Chapter, and although its transactions were mostly confined to business of a local character, they show that the Companions are of the right stamp, and have started out with the determination to place their Grand Chapter in the front rank.

The Grand High Priest, Comp. Alex. Keith, was only able, in consequence of a severe affliction, to preside at one of the convocations held during the year. Comp. S. R. Sircom, Grand King, (the office of Deputy Grand High Priest not being recognized by them,) presided at the others.

The Acting Grand High Priest, in his address, delivered at the Annual Convocation, speaks of the condition of the Chapters in the jurisdiction, as follows :

“These Chapters are all in a flourishing condition; the members exhibit great zeal in acquiring our beautiful ritual, and the material accepted is of that class which will, I feel satisfied, reflect credit upon our Order.

“Their invested funds total up a very creditable amount, the number of members, as per returns, is 136, and many of the drones have been struck off the roll during the past year, which will doubtless have a beneficial effect.”

Referring to the manner in which the establishment of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia has been received by other Grand Bodies, he says :

“During the past year, we have had the most satisfactory assurances of the good will and brotherly friendship of the Companions on this con-

tinent. The establishment of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia has almost universally received the unqualified approval, the warmest sympathy, and the most fraternal consideration from the Grand Chapter of England and those in America. In no single instance, on this continent, has the legality of our formation been questioned, and only one Grand Chapter (the Grand Chapter of Tennessee,) so far as we have heard from, have delayed extending to us the right hand of fellowship, in consequence, as they state, of the action taken by the Grand Chapter of Scotland (as set forth in their circular bearing date November 4, 1869.) Although the Grand Chapter of Tennessee have not formally recognized us, still they have exchanged reports with us and have also entered our Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary's names amongst their list of correspondents."

"Old Mother Scotland" had better take the back track, and recognize this young Grand Chapter while she can do it gracefully, and not put off doing what seems to us a plain duty, until all the other Grand Chapters have placed it on the roll.

On the use of substitutes he says :

"Referring to the use of substitutes, I find there is great diversity of opinion among the several Grand Chapters whether it is or is not a violation of the fundamental law of Capitular Masonry.

"In Massachusetts it has been practised since 1769, a period of over one hundred years, and I think I may safely say it is practised at the present time by a majority of Grand Chapters.

"This Grand Chapter only being in its infancy, there has been comparatively little time for either the Grand High Priest or the Committee of General Purposes to come to any satisfactory conclusion, our Constitution being silent on the point. I am inclined to believe the spirit of the law requiring three, and three only, does not forbid, if occasion should require, the making up of that number by those who had actually gone through the ceremony. I therefore trust you will so settle this question that the Subordinate Chapters may be enabled to act for themselves."

The committee to whom the address was referred subsequently reported, in reference to this portion, that "the same be dealt with by this Grand Chapter," but no action was taken on the question by the Grand Chapter. We trust our young sister will not hesitate on this question, but meet it at once. Commence at once, as the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia did, and insist upon a strict compliance with every portion of the O. B. We have found it to work well, and we trust that the next report received from Nova Scotia will contain the edict forbidding the use of substitutes.

A charter for a new Chapter, to be located at Truro, and to be called "Keith Chapter, No. 4," was granted.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, which is a well-written document, is by Comp. J. Conway Brown. He reviews the proceedings of twenty-six Grand Chapters, the District of Columbia for 1870 receiving quite a lengthy and fraternal notice. Comp. Mason's report he pronounces one of the very best he has seen. The only trouble with Comp.

Brown seems to be his desire to comment on, rather than extract from, the proceedings of the other Grand Bodies. The report last year was from the same Companion, and when he signed it he fell into the error, which has of late become quite prevalent, of appending to his signature a sign or mark which has no connection with our branch of Masonry, and therefore should not be used except in connection with the rite to which it belongs, thus: "J. Conway Brown, 18°." Comp. Brown having been called to account for thus styling himself by a good many Companions, gracefully acknowledges his error, and promises to do so no more, as follows:

"It is a fitting place to make a confession and acknowledge an error. Last year, upon signing our report, and being perhaps a little flushed with the novelty of the thing, in an unguarded moment, we attached the figures 18° to our name. The fault was soon acknowledged, but too late for remedy, and it never was more strikingly felt than upon the receipt of Maine's proceedings, the reporter of which was entitled not only to 32°, which is yet beyond our grasp, but to the signature of the Supreme Head of the Rite. Seeing that he was content with a plain signature, we, at the highest only entitled to "M. W. S.," took to heart the silent rebuke, and resolved that it should not occur again. Will Gouley, Langridge, and others please take note?"

It becomes our sad duty to insert the following, which we find at the end of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter. By the death of Comp. Brown the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia has lost one of its brightest ornaments and most valued members:

"Since the foregoing proceedings were prepared, this Grand Chapter has met with a loss which they find it difficult to realize, but which is a melancholy reality—*Companion Joseph Conway Brown is dead!*"

Comp. Stephen R. Sircom, of Halifax, was elected Grand High Priest.
Comp. James Gossip, of Halifax, was re-elected Grand Secretary.
Number of Chapters, 3. Number of R.: A.: Masons, 136.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The proceedings of this Grand Chapter, held at Wilmington, June 3, 1872, being its Twenty-fourth Annual Convocation, have been received. M.: E.: Comp. John Nichols, Grand High Priest, presided. Twelve Chapters were represented.

Comp. Nichols delivered his address, which relates chiefly to matters of local interest. He says:

"COMPANIONS: Turning aside from our ordinary pursuits, and forgetting for the time the hard competitions of business, the struggles of professional life, the feverish thirst for fame, and the bitter wranglings of partisan zeal, we assemble again in this hall, so long consecrated to

Benevolence, bow again before the shrine of Masonry, gather fresh motives of affection for our venerable institution, and dedicate ourselves anew to its great principles and duties.

"If the uninitiated ask why we thus assemble, or question us in regard to what constitutes Masonry, we can answer, in the language of a distinguished Companion of our State: 'Masonry avoids strife and controversy. If there are neighborhood disputes, she is neutral; in the arena of politics, she is of no party; in theology, she is of no sect; in war, she goes not to battle except as an Angel of Mercy; when reviled, she reviles not again. She invites no one into her councils, and turns no one away who comes of his own free will and accord and is worthy. She has nothing to ask as a favor and nothing to fear as a harm. A blameless life of centuries is her safety, and the mountains are not higher nor the sea broader than her fame.'"

A large portion of his address is occupied with giving a history of the organization of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, and its connection with, and subsequent withdrawal from, the General Grand Chapter, and urges that the Grand Chapter return to its "first love," and says:

"I judge not uncharitably the motives of the Companions who passed the resolution of 1857, already referred to. I doubt not that they were prompted by the commendable desire to promote the prosperity of Capital Masonry in this Grand jurisdiction. In fact, this is the leading idea expressed in the address of the Grand High Priest on that occasion, and in the report of the committee on that subject, in urging the passage of the resolution. In reviewing the address and the report, I find that the question of legality of the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter is not considered."

Comp. Nichols was delighted with the "open-arms reception" he and his colleague received at the General Grand Chapter in Baltimore, and the result was that the "prodigal" returned to its parent.

In consequence of the sickness of the chairman, no report was received from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient and Accepted Masons of the State of North Carolina did, at the last Grand Annual Convocation of that body, adopt the following resolution, to-wit:

"Resolved, That the Masters of all Subordinate Lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge be required, within three months after the close of this Grand Lodge, to give notice to all non-affiliated Masons within their jurisdiction to connect themselves with some Lodge, and if after such notice they shall for twelve months fail to do so, said Subordinate Lodges shall expel such Masons from all the rights and privileges of Masonry.

"And whereas, this Grand Chapter does hold such action to be in conflict with the most vital, cherished, and long-established principles of the Masonic institution; that Masonry is free—that all must come of 'their own free-will and accord,' who would connect themselves with it—that they may sever their connection therewith, when they have complied with all the requirements thereof, at their pleasure, and that no

coercive measures should ever be adopted as an inducement for them to renew the same ; that Masons bound to the Lodge by the terrors of the Inquisition are not only useless as members, but may and doubtless would destroy the harmony and good fellowship thereof, and jeopardize its very existence. And whereas, there are thousands of zealous, true, valuable, and highly esteemed members of our Chapters, who are, for good and valid reasons, perhaps, not members of any Lodge, or living within reach of one, who would by this edict of our Grand Lodge, if enforced against them, be necessarily expelled from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons ; therefore, be it

“ *Resolved*, That while this Grand Chapter esteems it a duty of all Masons to be members of the Lodge, it admits that there may be many good and legitimate reasons, governing individual Masons, justifying their action in remaining unaffiliated ; and that a crusade against non-affiliants will most assuredly recoil upon the institution ; that the demon of anti-Masonry will be aroused, and with thousands of recruits from our own camp, will strike a blow that may be more disastrous to our Order than anything that has yet befallen it.

“ *Resolved, further*, That this Grand Royal Arch Chapter does most respectfully but earnestly appeal to the M. . W. . Grand Lodge to rescind the said resolution at her next ensuing Grand Annual Convocation.

“ *Resolved, further*, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the Secretary of the M. . W. . Grand Lodge with the request that it be laid before that body at the aforesaid Grand Convocation.’ ”

We trust that the appeal of the Grand Chapter will have the desired effect, and that the Grand Lodge will at once repeal the resolution they have, in our opinion, so unwisely adopted. We should like to know by what right a Grand Lodge can pass such a resolution, and thereby virtually say to a Grand Chapter that no Companion shall be recognized as a Mason unless he is affiliated with a Lodge. If a Grand Chapter does not think proper to make affiliation with a Lodge one of the necessary qualifications to be a R. . A. . Mason, from what source does a Grand Lodge get the right to interfere in the manner that the action of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina does ? Has the Grand Lodge a right to expel a brother unless he has been guilty of unmasonic conduct ? We say not ; and the fact that a Brother is unaffiliated is not a masonic crime. If a Companion, for reasons satisfactory to himself, thinks proper to remain unaffiliated with a Lodge, then deprive him of the benefits of the Lodge ; but do not attempt to affect his connection with other branches of Masonry, where, possibly, it may be more convenient for him to attend to his duties.

Comp. John Nichols, of Raleigh, was re-elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. Thos. B. Carr, of Wilmington, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 13. Number of R. . A. . Masons, 559.

NEBRASKA.

The fifth Annual Convocation of this young Grand Chapter was held in the city of Lincoln, on the 20th of June, 1871. M. . E. . E. A. Allen, Grand High Priest, presided. All of the Chapters in the State, six in number, were represented.

The volume contains very little of interest to any one outside of the jurisdiction. The address of the Grand High Priest is devoted almost entirely to giving an account of the condition of the Craft under his charge, and a recital of the very pleasant time he spent during a recent visit to San Francisco, where he was received in a very cordial and friendly manner by the Companions. During his visit, he says he had the "pleasure of inspecting all of their work in Capitular Masonry," and "declares it par excellent." We like to hear a Companion give an account of his visits to Companions of distant jurisdictions. We enjoy these trips ourselves, and are always glad to see Companions from abroad, and should Comp. Allen ever leave the wilds of the West for a trip to the East, we shall be very happy in assisting to make a good time for him, and will guarantee to show him Capitular work, both "skilful and impressive." In relation to the affairs in his own jurisdiction, he speaks as follows :

"Companions, we have, indeed, abundant cause for congratulation, when considering the healthy growth and prosperous condition of our Order, being consequent, in part, from the universal harmony prevailing throughout this jurisdiction during the past year."

He states that his "official acts during the past year have been limited, most of which being too unimportant in their nature to bear revision at this time," and brings to the attention of the Grand Chapter but one of the decisions he had rendered during the year, which he states as follows :

"In February last our very worthy Companion J. W. Moore, High Priest of Keystone Chapter, submitted to me the following :

"A Master Mason in this jurisdiction applies for the degrees in Keystone Chapter and is rejected ; afterward he removed out of our jurisdiction, and sends his petition for our recommendation to ——— Chapter for the degrees. Question :

"1st. Will this petition for recommendation have to lay over the usual thirty days, or may we pass upon it instantan?

"2d. Must the ballot be by a three-fourths vote, or entirely in the affirmative?

"In the absence of a by-law, or legislation by the Grand Chapter of the State, I am at a loss to know what to do in the premises. Your answer will be anxiously looked for by our Chapter."

"The following were my decisions thereupon, and some of the reasons therefor:

"1st. The petition must lie over the usual thirty days or one lunar month.

"2d. The ballot must be unanimous in his favor, in order to recommend him.

"The petition should lie over from one stated meeting to another, to give such as had previously voted to reject the applicant, as well as all other members, due notice, and an opportunity to be present when action is taken thereon.

"The ballot should be unanimous; else you might be placed in the peculiar position of having rejected a candidate as unfit to belong to your Chapter, but recommending him as good enough for the Chapter to which he is now applying.

"These are questions of importance, and worthy of your consideration.

I therefore recommend that when fully advised in the premises, you adopt such a regulation in connection therewith as in your judgment may be most expedient and requisite to govern like cases in the future, should any arise."

This decision of the Grand High Priest was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who subsequently reported a resolution "ratifying and confirming the same," which was adopted.

The appointment of Representatives to several State Grand Chapters was announced.

It was ordered that Bellevue Chapter, U. D., be "required to return their dispensation to the Grand High Priest, who was authorized to issue a new one." No reason is given for this action, but we presume a good and sufficient one existed.

A full set of jewels was ordered for the Grand Chapter. We hope our Grand Chapter will follow the example of our twin sister and do likewise.

We are glad to be able to announce that the "hermit" ideas of Comp. Livingston, as set forth in the following resolution offered by him, were not approved by the Grand Chapter, as the same was laid upon the table:

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter discountenances public installations."

The Report of Foreign Correspondence was written by Comp. Furnas, in which he reviews in a very satisfactory manner the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters, including those of the District of Columbia for 1870.

In referring to the complaint made by Comp. Mason in his report for 1870, at not having our proceedings recognized in the reports from Nebraska, he says:

"It is made a matter of complaint that the report of Comp. Graff on Foreign Correspondence does not include a reference to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and thereupon says:

"When this new Grand Chapter was formed we welcomed her into the fold as our own twin sister, born the same year. We have sent our proceedings annually, and never yet heard any response or acknowledgment that they have been received. We cannot understand why our young sister gives such unmistakable evidence of negligence at this early age.

"We are aware how readily divorces are granted out West, but yet we warn our twin sister that neither of us can possibly be old enough to secure one from any cause."

"If this is so, it is properly a subject of just complaint, and how Comp. Graff could have overlooked the charms of style so evident in the correspondence of Comp. Mason is a matter of surprise, and it is but reasonable that the Grand Chapter so near the great head of this great nation that it can flaunt defiance to the General Grand Chapter should feel indignant when insignificant Nebraska will not take off its hat and apolo-

gize in advance when it may be suspected of being in the wrong. We think the Companion is either a little hasty or a little over jocular; we think the latter, for he certainly will not charge discourtesy with so little knowledge. Comp. Graff can doubtless explain. We trust the substance and manner of this report will convince the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia that the Grand Chapter of Nebraska does not seek a divorce, and also, that such divorces are not so easy to secure out West."

We accept this as an acknowledgment that our proceedings have been received regularly, and feel relieved, as frequent inquiries were made of us while Grand Secretary, to know the reason why our proceedings were not sent to Nebraska. Our reply was: "Sent them regularly."

M. E. E. A. Allen, of Omaha, was re-elected Grand High Priest.

R. E. Robert W. Furnas, of Brownville, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of chartered Chapters, 6. Number of R. A. Masons, 359.

OREGON.

The twelfth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Oregon was held in the city of Salem, on the 21st day of June, 1872. M. E. Comp. James R. Bayley, Grand High Priest, presided. Five Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest delivered a short address, which related entirely to local matters. He says the Chapters in his jurisdiction "are all in a prosperous condition, there being no discord to mar their peace and harmony."

No business was transacted at this Convocation of interest to those beyond the jurisdiction.

A charter was voted for a new Chapter.

The "tribute of one cent per member" was voted to the General Grand Chapter.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Comp. T. McF. Patton, and is a very interesting review of the proceedings of thirty State Grand Chapters, and the General Grand Chapter. He devotes considerable space to the proceedings of our Grand Chapter for the year 1871.

We have pondered over the following paragraph from his notice of us, with the view of ascertaining the objective point; but must confess that we have failed, and therefore insert it here, in the hope that some of our Companions, whose ideas are clearer than ours, may be able to discover it. It may be that Comp. Patton was in one of his "witty moods" just at this point:

"Formal proceedings in this Grand Chapter commenced promptly at 7 o'clock P. M., November 14th, and was closed in AMPLE FORM on the 29th of the same month, in the same year. We do not wish our Companions to infer that it was one continuous session, and that our Companions in the District had their harness on all this time; for such is not the case.

They simply *rested*—not on the seventh day, as did our ancient brethren, but on the evening of the first day of their labors, and continued on *fur-lough* until an unknown hour on the sixteenth day thereafter. The reason assigned in the record for this brief respite from labor is that “no further business appearing,” the Grand Chapter was called to a resumed Convocation on the 29th. It may have been that the report of Companion Mason had such a depressing influence upon them, that they needed a few days’ recreation for consideration. Again, the Companions may have deemed this a suitable occasion to visit and inspect the *quarries* in and about Washington, as we learn from reports, other than those now before us for review, that they are receiving particular attention just at this time.”

Comp. Patton, please inform us how you do in Oregon. We are always ready to learn.

In referring to Comp. Mason’s report, he says :

“Comp. Mason quotes liberally the view of Comp. Chadwick concerning the General Grand Chapter.

“Will he, or his successor, quote as liberally our views as expressed in this report.”

We would most cheerfully comply with this request, if we could find out just what views he expresses on the General Grand Chapter. He has much to say about it, but we are unable to find any definite expression of opinion.

In his review of the Grand Chapter of Illinois, he calls that body to account for not adopting the non-committal policy recommended by the General Grand Chapter in relation to the use of substitutes, and says :

“The rebellious spirit of Iowa is manifested here ; we say rebellious, because the question has been discussed time and again ; and when a question has received as thorough ventilation as this, by the best minds, and squarely submitted for decision to General Grand Chapter, it ought to be satisfactory, and every jurisdiction meekly accept the situation. The resolution submitted prohibiting their use was voted down by a two-thirds vote. This subject is entitled to decent burial, and we sincerely hope that none will dare parade it again. Let us have peace.”

We most cheerfully unite with the Companion in his exclamation, “Let us have peace ;” but we cannot consent to get it in the manner he proposes. We desire to get it in a legitimate way. Admitting that the action of the General Grand Chapter legalized the use, we would ask what right had that body to interfere with the question, one way or the other ? This is a matter entirely beyond her control, and belongs to the Grand Chapters to settle for their respective jurisdictions. It will not do for Companions to apply the term “rebellious” to those Grand Chapters which insist upon a strict construction of the “O. B.” This subject is not dead, nor can it die, until arguments of greater force than those heretofore presented are brought forward to convince those who adhere to a rigid construction of every part of our work.

In his review of Iowa, he continues this subject, and takes her to task for not allowing the use of substitutes, and says :

"We feel like delivering a short sermon on the following text from 23d chapter of Deuteronomy :

"Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds, lest the fruit of thy seeds which thou hast sown and the fruit of thy vineyard be defiled."

We regret very much that Comp. Patton does not give us the *sermon*, as we have no doubt that if the Companion should commence to argue out the text he has chosen in regular "theological style," he would be convinced that he is among the number who are sowing the "vineyard with divers seeds."

We should like to give more extracts from this report, but the proceedings having been received at such a late day we have not the time.

Comp. James R. Bayley, of Corvallis, was re-elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. R. P. Earhart, of Salem, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 6. Number of R. A. Masons, 189.

PENNSYLVANIA.

We have received the abstract of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania at its Quarterly and Annual Convocations for 1871. The annual was held on the 27th of December, at which Comp. Nisbet, Grand High Priest, presided ; sixteen Chapters being represented.

The proceedings of this Grand Body relate entirely to local matters, and are of very little interest to Companions outside of its jurisdiction.

The Grand Mark Lodge of England was recognized, and the overture from the General Grand Chapter for the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania to become a constituent of that body was refused.

At the Quarterly Communication, November 2, the annual election of officers was held. Comp. Nisbet having declined a re-election, Comp. Charles E. Meyer was elected his successor.

At the Annual Convocation, Comp. Nisbet delivered his valedictory, in which he confines himself to giving an account of his official acts during the year ; but no decisions are reported.

Speaking of the condition of the Royal Craft in the jurisdiction, he says :

"I congratulate you that peace and prosperity reign within our jurisdiction, and that nothing has occurred to disturb the peaceful relations existing between our own and other Grand Chapters."

Upon the conclusion of his address he installed his successor, Comp. Meyer, who delivered one of the most interesting addresses it has been our privilege to read ; and as it contains much valuable information, we will extract very largely from it, and trust that the Royal Craft will derive as much pleasure and profit from its perusal as we have.

In assuming the responsibility of the office he alluded to the many distinguished Companions who had preceded him, and hoped that he should be able to discharge the duties with the same degree of satisfaction to the

Craft, as they had done. Alluding to the early history of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania, he says :

"The early history of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania is no doubt intimately connected with a Chapter or Chapters worked by officers of the British army, stationed in Philadelphia, about the middle of the last century. It will be found by reference to the reprint of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, that Lodge No. 3 claims the honor of having, as far as known, the oldest records of the Royal Arch degree in this country, its records dating back as far as 1767. In 1795, the great innovator, Thomas Smith Webb, and a few others from the New England States, made strenuous efforts to form a Grand Chapter in Pennsylvania; owing, however, to the influence of many members of the Grand Lodge, they were not successful, and the very object they tried to accomplish was carried out by the Royal Arch Masons of Pennsylvania in forming a Grand Chapter, subordinate, however, to the Grand Lodge.

A few years after this, in 1797, a Grand Chapter of the Northern States of America was formed by Webb and his coadjutors. The present General Grand Chapter of the United States was not formed until 1806, at which time, if we are not mistaken, they first claimed jurisdiction over the Past Master's so-called degree.

In 1820, the members of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania endeavored to make the Grand Chapter an independent body, not subordinate to or under any control of the Grand Lodge. This movement was strenuously opposed by many distinguished Masons, led by Brother Josiah Randall, more particularly on account of the intended incorporation of the degree of Most Excellent Master. To the Mark Master's degree there appears to have been not so much objection, as Brother Randall and others had previously received it, but how or where we have not been able to learn.

After a series of motions, pro and con, on the 17th day of December, 1824, the Grand Chapter became independent, and from that time Royal Arch Masonry has prospered in this jurisdiction."

In relation to Capitular Masonry in Great Britain and Ireland, he says :

"During the past year, in order that I might be able to lay before the Grand Chapter as much information as possible on the subject of Capitular Masonry in Great Britain and Ireland, I entered into correspondence with that distinguished Masonic historian, Companion William James Hughan, of Truro, Cornwall, England, who has kindly furnished me with answers to the following questions, together with a short history of the Mark degree in the countries above named, which will be found in the Appendix, 'A.'"

MARK MASTER MASON.

"Ques. Is the Mark degree, as worked in England, the Mark Man or the Mark Master Mason?

Ans. The Mark Man and Mark Master are both worked in general; the first as preparatory to the latter, but generally speaking, only the Mark Master's. The 'Ark,' 'Mark and Link or Wrestle' are now obsolete. The Mark Man or Mason was given to Fellow Crafts on January 7, 1778, at Banff, Scotland; but the Mark Master at the same time was at the same meeting restricted to Master Masons. This is important, as the

latter has been restricted to Master Masons in England, Ireland, and Scotland.

Ques. Is it recognized by the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England?

Ans. The Mark is not recognized by the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England. It is, however, by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Scotland,* and by the Grand Chapter of Ireland. The Mark in England is under a separate jurisdiction, called the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, numbering over one hundred Lodges, established in June, 1856. It is prosperous. A few Lodges are granted for England by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, *pro tempore*. The Grand Lodge of Mark Masters is recognized by the Grand Chapter of Ireland and the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Ques. What are the requirements of an applicant? Must he be a Fellow Craft or Master Mason, and must he 'pass the chair' or be an 'installed Master' before applying?

Ans. The requirement is simply to be a Master Mason; no matter how short a time.

Ques. How many candidates can be Marked at one and the same time, or is there no limit as to number?

Ans. Any number can be advanced at one time.

Ques. Who are its officers?

Ans. The officers are Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, three Overseers, Treasurer, Chaplain, Secretary, two Deacons, Director of Ceremonies, Registrar of Marks, Inner Guard or Time Keeper, Stewards, and Tyler. The Worshipful Master and Wardens, with the Overseers, are members officially of Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge. The Worshipful Master must have been Worshipful Master of a Craft Lodge (actually) and been a Warden of a Mark Lodge for twelve months.

Ques. Is the Mark degree, as worked in England, the same as that worked in Ireland and Scotland?

Ans. The Mark degree is virtually the same in the three countries?

Ques. Are Lodges of Mark Masters separately constituted and consecrated, and what degree is it numerically?

Ans. Mark Lodges are generally consecrated or constituted. No regular ceremony is generally worked, and none is authorized. Numerically, in Scotland it is the fourth degree; and so in Ireland. In England there is no actual numeration whatever. It is, however, considered to be numerically as intermediate to the third degree and Royal Arch.

PAST MASTER.

Ques. Is the "Past Master" or ceremonial of "passing to the chair," or "installed Master," recognized by the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England?

Ans. In England the Past Master means one who has served twelve months as Worshipful Master of a Lodge, (actually.) No honorary degree is allowed at all for such rank, and it is under Grand Lodge only, although it is not termed a separate degree. In Scotland it is the fifth in rank under Grand Chapter, and is preparatory to the Arch, as is also the Mark, (fourth,) and Most Excellent, (sixth.)

Brother Laurence Dermott, Grand Secretary of the "Ancients," (and subsequently Deputy Grand Master,) was installed Master of No. 26, Dublin, Ireland, 24th of June, 1746. The Constitution of the Grand

* The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland says: "All Lodges holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland are strictly prohibited and discharged from holding any other meeting than those of the three Orders, viz., Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, denominated 'St. John's Masonry,' the Mark forming part of second degree, though only to be conferred on Master Masons."

Lodge of England, 1723, speaks of the installation of the Master as "certain significant ceremonies and ancient usages." The ceremony, however, was observed in *the presence of even the Apprentices*.

Dr. Dassigny, of A. D. 1744, mentions Brethren as "having passed the chair." I think the Installed Master was originated about 1738, when the Royal Arch was instituted, and by the "Ancients."

I notice in an edition of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, A. D. 1738, the forty-seventh problem of Euclid is inserted, without note or comment, at the end of the work.

MOST EXCELLENT MASTER MASON.

Ques. Have you such a degree? If so, where and by what and whose authority is it conferred? If conferred, is it recognized by the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter? Have they such a degree in Ireland and Scotland?

Ans. Worked in England in connection with the Mark Grand Lodge. In Scotland, sixth degree, as above mentioned.

ROYAL ARCH MASON.

Ques. Under what and whose authority is the Royal Arch conferred?

Ans. By Grand Chapters in England, *recognized* by Grand Lodge; in Scotland, *not* recognized by Grand Lodge; in Ireland, *virtually* recognized by Grand Lodge. In Scotland, Grand Lodge only recognizes the three Craft degrees and the *Mark*.

Ques. Is the Grand Chapter a separate organization, (that is, independent,) and are subordinate Chapters distinct organizations, and do they work under Chapter warrants?

Ans. Grand Chapters are separate organizations.

Ques. What are the qualifications of candidates for the degree?

Ans. In England, twelve months a Master Mason, unless by dispensation. Any number, even one, may be exalted the same evening. We never have or have had any rule requiring three candidates, proxy or otherwise, in this country.

Ques. Who are its officers?

Ans. (Z.,) Zerubbabel, or First Principal; (H.,) Haggai, or Second Principal; (J.,) Jeshua, or Third Principal; Chaplain, Treasurer, Scribe E., (Ezra;) Scribe N., (Nehemiah;) Principal Sojourner, Assistant Senior and Junior Sojourners,* Director of Ceremonies. Sword Bearer, Stewards, Banner Bearer, and Janitor. All are elected by members but Assistant Sojourners, who are chosen by the Principal Sojourner. The three Principals must be actual Past Masters of Craft Lodges, and they must be taken *seriatim* annually.

Ques. Have you such a degree or order as High Priesthood?

Ans. High Priesthood not recognized. Separate ceremonials, however, at installation of each of the Principals, and at opening only Past or Present Principals are present.

Ques. To whom are your Chapters dedicated?

Ans. Dedication mainly as Craft dedication.

* The three Sojourners are mentioned in the Constitution of Royal Arch, 1778 and 1782, and so in all since, under the "Moderns," so called, but really the "Ancients."

From *Laws for Society of Royal Arch Masons*, 1778 and 1782, (London,) "Moderns," I have made the annexed extract:

"1. That, according to ancient custom, a complete Chapter of the Supreme Degree of Masonry consists of three Principals, who, when in Chapter assembled, are to be considered conjointly as the Master and each severally as a Master; two Scribes, three Sojourners, (the edition of 1778 has for Scribes three Sojourners,) and seventy-two others, as council, and that no regular Chapter of this exalted degree can consist of more; but that any number may be exalted and received as Companions, though not to hold the staff of office or be considered as councillors when more than that number are present."

Ques. Does suspension or expulsion in Blue or Craft Lodges work; suspension or expulsion in the Chapter?

Ans. Yes, in England and Ireland.

Ques. Is there any difference in the work of England from that of Ireland, Scotland, and the United States; and have any changes been made within a few years?

Ans. None of much importance, excepting in Ireland, where the officers are more after the American style. No change made of late years.

Ques. Is the degree as worked now in England that of the Ancients or Moderns—Anderson or Dermott?

Ans. A union of both in 1817.

Ques. Do you use the words "Holy Royal Arch"?

Ans. "Holy Royal Arch" never occurs in our regulations, and is never used by Grand Chapter. The degree is often so called in our Chapters, and so designated in our summons. The term arose with the Ancients, but in their Constitution for 1756 it is called "Royal Arch." In 1807 it is styled the "Holy Royal Arch" by the same body.

Ques. Have you separate installation ceremony for each of the Principals in the Chapter; and who are present at the installation?

Ans. We have a separate installation ceremony for all the Principals, viz: Zerubbabel, Haggai, and Jeshua. It is rather an elaborate affair. In England and Scotland you must serve as Jeshua before Haggai, and Haggai before Zerubbabel; and in England either Principal must be a Past Master before installation, unless by dispensation. None but possessors of the Principal's degree to be installed can witness the ceremony.

Ques. What is the Royal Ark Mariner's degree?

Ans. The Royal Ark Mariner's degree is a side degree. It is worked under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and given only to Royal Arch Masons. It has been worked off and on for a century. In England it is given to Mark Masons, and has a governing body. Excepting as a curiosity, it is useless.

The letter of Comp. William James Hughan, on Capitular Masonry in Great Britain and Ireland. referred to in the address of Grand High Priest Meyer, and which is the first of a series of letters on this subject promised to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania by our distinguished Companion, we give in full, as justice could not be done the Companion by making mere extracts from the same. It is as follows :

To commence the series according to custom, the Mark degree should of course *first* receive notice.

In Ireland Mark Masonry is comparatively quiet at present.

Chapters are *not* compelled to give the degree as preparatory to the Royal Arch, and although it is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, but little attention is paid to its peculiar and impressive ceremonies. A distinctive mark *may* (not *must*) be adopted, and *separate certificates are issued, if required.* Six Mark Masters are required to be present at opening, who must be duly qualified to fill the offices of Master, Wardens and Overseers. Members are accepted as Mark Masters under that Constitution without any intention of being *exalted*, just as with brethren who join the Mark Lodges in Philadelphia and in England, &c—being, of course, Master Masons.

Some of the foregoing remarks having been made by me, and questioned, I submitted the points in dispute to the Assistant Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and that most obliging Companion con-

firmed my statements in full. In a letter dated July 1, 1871, he observes : "It is quite *optional* with brethren taking the Royal Arch to take the Mark degree, *i. e.*, as far as Grand Chapter is concerned ; but very many Chapters, by their By-Laws, make it a prerequisite." Hence it is clear that, *in Ireland*,

(a) The Mark degree *is not* a prerequisite for Royal Arch Masonry, according to the laws of the Grand Chapter.

(b) That some Chapters do not work the degree.

(c) That Lodges work under the Chapter warrants.

(d) That Mark Masonry has not the prominence as in other countries.

In Scotland the Mark degree is in a *unique* position. The *Grand Lodge* recognizes it, and so does the Grand Chapter. Any Craft Lodge, under its constitution, has a right to work the degree in Scotland as a *Craft Lodge*, and many exercise that privilege ; and in fact, *all can*. It is considered by some authorities to belong to the second degree, but no evidence in support of this position has been adduced. The earliest minute known which alludes to the degree is dated A. D. 1778, of which we have a copy, and unequivocally connects the Mark Master's degree with the Master Mason.

The "Mark" is a prerequisite for Royal Arch Masonry under the Grand Chapter, and candidates for exaltation who have been "advanced" in a Craft Lodge are accepted as members of the *fourth* degree.

The Grand Chapter has granted warrants to form Mark Lodges in England from A. D. 1856, but never many at any time have been working. Some of these, however, have been most successful, particularly one now working at Manchester. Some brethren, like the writer, belong to both jurisdictions, and hope soon to see all undue rivalry at an end. The warrants contain a proviso that in the event of any governing body being recognized for the degree in England, they should *ipso facto*, be canceled. It is believed by many that the time has come for these warrants to be recalled, as a properly constituted governing body exists in England for the present time, with more than one hundred Mark Lodges on its roll, and some thousands of members.

Unfortunately *one* of the Lodges that took part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters (only *one* out of several,) for England and Wales, A. D. 1856, viz : the "Bon Accord Mark Lodge," held in London, met by virtue of a warrant from the Bon Accord Chapter, in Aberdeen, Scotland, which was *illegally granted*.

Chapters, at that time, had power to issue warrants to work the Mark degree in Scotland, *but not in England*, which of course was masonically beyond the jurisdiction of Scottish Chapters. This misfortune has contributed, I fear, to induce the Grand Chapter of Scotland to continue the Mark warrants in England, although of course the mistake of some Scottish brethren cannot invalidate the position of the several Mark Lodges which united to form the Grand Lodge in question, *some of which have worked the degree for many years before even the Grand Chapter of Scotland was instituted*.

We anticipate ere long that the good understanding and fellowship always subsisting between the members of both organizations will be indissolubly cemented by the withdrawal of the warrants for Scottish Mark Lodges in England.

Companions in the United States can feelingly sympathize with those who are suffering from "invasion of jurisdiction," and although we in England as Mark Masters are content to wait patiently for free and full recognition of our claims by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, we nevertheless shall be glad of a prompt response.

In Scotland, then, the Mark degree

(a) Is recognized by the Grand Lodge and Chapter.

(b) Is a prerequisite for Royal Arch Masonry.

(c) It can be given in a Craft Lodge, Mark Lodge, or as preparatory for the Chapter.

(d) The Grand Chapter has Lodges in England.

(e) Joining Companions not "marked" must be before the affiliation is complete.

In England the only degrees recognized by the Grand Lodge are the *three first*, the Past Master (viz: *an installed Master of a Lodge only*, who has been duly elected, and formerly served as Warden) *and the Royal Arch*.

The "*articles of union*" of 1813, which bound the two rival Grand Lodges to *certain* degrees, and no more, omitted any mention of Mark Masonry; and although the Grand Chapter of Scotland and Mark Masters in England have endeavored to secure the recognition of the degree by the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England, they have signally failed. *We say unhesitatingly, unless the Grand Lodge breaks its pledge, Mark Masonry cannot be recognized in England.*

The solemn promise made in 1813 effectually shuts out the Mark degree,* and it is of no service to inquire whether the members were wise in so promising, as the pledge was given, and therefore must be honored by all who value treaties among Masons.

This being so, the members of Mark Lodges were averse to remain as a body without a head, and, naturally objecting to any foreign rule, formed a Grand Lodge, A. D. 1856, with many Lodges under its jurisdiction. The degree has rapidly spread, and the Grand Lodge has prospered exceedingly—so much so that now the Lodges muster more than one hundred! Lord Leigh, the first Grand Master, is an esteemed Provincial Grand Master in the Craft. The next Grand Master was the Earl of Caernarvon, who is a Provincial Grand Master, and the present Deputy Grand Master of England, (*i. e.*, the next in authority to the Marquis of Ripon.) The *third* Grand Master was Viscount Holmesdale, also a Provincial Grand Master; and the Grand Master at the present time is a deservedly esteemed and respected well-known Craft Mason and estimable clergyman.† Many well-known noblemen and brethren under the banner of English Freemasonry are proud to acknowledge their membership of this Grand Lodge, many of whom are Past Grand Wardens of the Craft Grand Lodge. Some of the Lodges are of "time immemorial" age, and have worked the degree no one knows how long, but certainly during the last century. Without such a Grand Lodge having been formed, the degree would have been little known in England, and although it is certainly a novel feature to have a Grand Lodge for the Mark degree, *it is justifiable under the circumstances.* The same novelty as a governing body was instituted for Royal Arch Masons about the middle of the last century. *Before then* there was not a Grand Chapter anywhere over the globe, *and never had been.* The Royal Arch Chapters had no governing body before A. D. 1750, and, in response to the wants of the Companions, the "Ancients" formed a Grand Chapter, and the "Moderns" followed about A. D. 1766—*new* bodies entirely, as much as the Mark Grand Lodge in 1856, but, like it, much *wanted*.

The Grand Lodge of Mark Masters has the pleasure of knowing all its certificates are recognized by the Grand Chapters of Ireland and Canada,

* It equally excludes from recognition the "Grand Conclave of the Knights Templar," (a most powerful and influential body,) the "Ancient and Accepted Rite," and the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine. *These three great organizations all recognize the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters.*

† His Deputy Grand Master is Earl Percy. The Order, however, has been careless of appointing brethren to office from mere *social position only*. Hence, although many noblemen grace its ranks, and are on the roll of officers, there are also to be found in its highest posts the hard-working members of the Fraternity.

and we feel sure that whenever the ardent and enthusiastic Companions in the United States are asked to greet English Mark Masters with friendly grasp, they will do so. Indeed, already we rejoice to know the Grand Chapters of Pennsylvania and Iowa have decided to do so.

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

TRURO, ENGLAND, *November 24, 1871.*

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is short, and was written by Comp. George Griscom, in which he reviews the proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Chapters, ours for the year 1870 receiving, as most of the others do, a very short notice.

Comp. Charles E. Meyer, Philadelphia, was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. John Thomson, Philadelphia, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 81. Number of R. A. Masons reported, 7,119. Five Chapters having failed to report, the number is therefore incorrect. The number returned by these Chapters last year was 545, which makes a total, as the Grand Secretary says, of about 7,664 R. A. Masons in the jurisdiction.

SCOTLAND.

We have received the report of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, containing a synopsis of its proceedings and that of its Grand Committee for 1871-'2. The Right Hon. Earl of Rosslyn, First Grand Principal. Libdsay Mackersy, W. S., Grand Scribe E.

There was no address delivered by the First Grand Principal.

There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

A letter was read from the High Priest of a Chapter in Delaware, "inquiring as to the practice of the Supreme Grand Chapter in electing office-bearers, and, in particular, whether it would be competent to elect a non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason, or one who had never held the office of Principal in a subordinate Chapter, to the office of First Grand Principal?"

On which the Grand Committee expressed the following opinions :

"(1.) That no one could be elected as First Grand Principal who is not a Scotch Royal Arch Mason, either by exaltation or affiliation; and, (2.) That it is not necessary that the First Grand of the Supreme Chapter should have occupied the chair of a subordinate Chapter."

Comp. William Hay presented his commission as Grand Representative from the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and was received with the usual honors, and took his place as Third Grand Principal.

During the year 1871 a Conference of Delegates from the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Scotland, Grand Chapter of Ireland, and the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, &c., was held in the city of London. The subject for consideration was the position of the Mark Degree in England, and with the view of so arranging the order of conferring the degree as to have uniformity in the several jurisdictions. The delegates

from the Grand Chapter of Scotland submitted their report, which we are sorry to say is not published, which was referred to a select committee for examination and report. On the 21st of September, 1871, the select committee submitted its report, which is quite lengthy, and as it contains much valuable information which we think will prove interesting to our Companions, we insert the report entire :

"In obedience to a remit from the Supreme Chapter, the committee have carefully considered the published Report of the proceedings of the Conference in London, and as copies of that Report are in the hands of all members of the Supreme Chapter, it is unnecessary to say anything in addition to the facts therein contained. The object of the Conference primarily was, to make some arrangement for the working of the Mark Master's Degree in England, but the more general and infinitely more important question has been raised as to the possibility of bringing about uniformity of working the degrees in the three countries of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and as the greater of these questions necessarily includes the lesser, the committee will deal with that.

"At the outset, and with the view of considering this question, it is of the greatest importance to keep in view the differences in the working in the different countries where the English language is spoken, in order that it may appear what changes would be necessary to harmonize these workings.

"1. ENGLAND.—According to the constitutions and practice of the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England, no degrees are sanctioned or wrought except the three degrees of St. John's Masonry, viz : Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, and the Royal Arch Degree, the latter being thus the fourth degree in their series. In addition to this, the Chair Degrees are conferred upon the Masters of Lodges and the three Principals of Chapters. These Chair Degrees, however, are not viewed as parts of Ancient Masonry, but the committee believe rather as ceremonies with secrets attached to them. Beyond this, no degrees are sanctioned by the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England. It may also be noticed that these two Grand Bodies in England, although under different names, are, for all practical purposes, but one body.

"2. SCOTLAND.—In Scotland the governing bodies of St. John's and Royal Arch Masonry are quite distinct, and although maintaining most friendly relations, and presided over by the same Brother and Companion, yet have no connection the one with the other.

"The Grand Lodge of Scotland recognizes only the three degrees of St. John's Masonry, including the Mark, the latter being held to be a part of the Fellow Craft Degree, although its working by Lodges is optional, and, to prevent confusion with Brethren admitted under different constitutions, only conferred upon Master Masons and in a separate Lodge. The Grand Lodge has no Chair Degree for its Masters of Lodges. It has a Ceremonial for their installation, but this Ceremonial contains no secrets.

"The Grand Chapter of Scotland recognizes and works the degrees in the following order :—(1.) Mark Master. (2.) Past Master. (3.) Excellent Master, including the Super Excellent Degree or passing the Veils ; and (4.) The Royal Arch. The Excellent, Super Excellent, and Royal Arch Degrees, are, however, in working, never separated. In addition to these, there are some side degrees which may be worked under the Chapter Warrants, but which can be conferred only on Royal Ark Masons in possession of Diplomas: these are, (1.) The Royal Arch Mariners Degree, and (2.) The Red Cross Degrees, consisting of Knights of the Sword, Knights

of the East, Knights of the East and West. There are also the three Chair Degrees, restricted to the three Principals of Chapters.

"3. IRELAND.—The Grand Lodge and Chapter of Ireland are, as regards constitution, more nearly akin to England, but as to the degrees recognized by them and worked by their Lodges and Chapters, they more nearly resemble Scotland.

"The Grand Lodge of Ireland recognizes the three degrees of St. John's Masonry only, but it has a degree or ceremonial conferred on Masters of Lodges on their taking the Chair as in England, and no one can speak or vote at meetings of Grand Lodge as a Master, unless he be registered as the installed Master of a Lodge of St. John's Masonry, and possess a certificate.

"The Grand Chapter recognizes. (1.) The Mark Master. (2.) The Excellent. (3.) The Super Excellent, and (4.) The Royal Arch. These last three degrees now, as in Scotland, form in Ireland one ceremony, although formerly they were worked separately. The 'Virtual Past Master's Degree, which was formerly given in Ireland, has been abolished. The Chapters in Ireland do not work the Ark Mariner's Degree, but the three Principals of the Chapters receive Chair Degrees, applicable each to his Chair.

"The Red Cross Degrees, consisting of Knights of the Sword, Knights of the East, and Knights of the East and West are worked in Ireland under the Grand Conclave of Knights Templars.

"4. AMERICA.—The American working is almost identical with the Scottish. In America there is a separate Grand Lodge and Chapter in every State of the Union, but these all agree in their system of working, excepting only the State of Pennsylvania, which adopts a slightly different view of the Past Master's Degree, which in the State is conferred under dispensation from the Grand Lodge, but in all the other States the following is the order of the degrees :

"Under the Grand Lodges the three degrees of St. John's Masonry. These Grand Lodges have no Chair Degrees.

"The Grand Chapters recognize the Mark Master, Past Master, the Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch. In some States the degrees of Royal and Select Master are worked, but in each of these States there is a separate governing body for these degrees. The Ark Mariner is not worked under the Chapter Warrants, and the Red Cross Degrees are worked as in Ireland, under the Grand Temple Encampments.

"5. CANADA.—The working of the Grand Lodge and Chapter of Canada so much resembles the American working, (except Pennsylvania,) that it is unnecessary more particularly to notice it.

"From the foregoing analysis of the workings of the Degrees in the different countries mentioned, it will be seen that all agree, with unimportant differences, except England, but that the English working is so very different from all the rest, that much practical inconvenience arises in the case of English Companions visiting any other country where the English language is spoken.

"With regard to the Scotch working, although in all essentials it corresponds with Ireland, America, and Canada, still the committee think that advantage might be taken of the present movement to assimilate the working of the Degrees in the different countries, to make some improvements upon the Scotch system, and with this view they would now suggest—

"1. That an attempt should be made to induce the Grand Lodge of Scotland to sanction a Ceremonial with secrets to be given to the actual Master of a Craft Lodge on his taking the Chair, similar to that conferred in England and Ireland; and

"2. That the Supreme Chapter should give up the working of the Past Master's Degree, as has been done in Ireland.

"The advantages arising from these changes, both in the case of the Grand Lodge and Chapter of Scotland would be great. If the Grand Lodge would sanction such a ceremonial as has now been indicated, and would keep a record of the names of all installed Masters, and if thought necessary, furnish them with a Certificate or Diploma for a small charge, as is done in the case of the installed Principals of Scotch Chapters, not only would the Scotch working in this respect be brought into harmony with the English and Irish, but it would be a great boon to the Masters of Scotch Lodges themselves, and, by tending to raise their status, would be an encouragement to a better class of Masons to seek the honor of passing the chair. At present there is no check upon any one calling himself a Past Master, and wearing the insignia of that rank. nor do any means exist by which a *bona fide* Past Master can establish his claim; but were a record kept and Diplomas issued an effectual remedy against these evils would be provided, and a Past Master would have evidence of his rank which he could carry about with him.

"Again, as regards the Past Master's Degree, the committee look upon it as a very undesirable one to keep up, if the Grand Lodge would consent to have genuine installed Masters. It is undoubted, that some very awkward mistakes have occurred in consequence of Companions who had received that Degree fancying themselves entitled to the rank of Past Masters in Craft Lodges, and, looking to the whole circumstances, the committee would recommend the Supreme Chapter to take steps for the purpose of expunging that Degree from the series.

"The more important matter, however, to be considered undoubtedly is the English working. As appears from the report of the Conference, and also from the analysis now given, there are no intermediate degrees in England between the Master Mason's and Royal Arch degrees. This is so practically inconvenient in the other countries referred to, that the committee would recommend the Supreme Chapter once more to bring the whole matter before the Grand Chapter of England, and ask that Grand Body either to assume the management of the degrees worked in all the other countries referred to, or to recognize some Grand Body in England to which the superintendence of these degrees could be committed. But should the Grand Chapter of England decline to adopt either course, the committee would recommend the Supreme Chapter, in conjunction with the Grand Chapter of Ireland, to consider as to according recognition in so far as they are concerned to a governing body in England over these degrees.

"As will be seen by referring to the report of the Conference, the propriety of again approaching the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England was strongly deprecated by the representatives of the English Mark Lodge present at the Conference, and the committee are not prepared to say that there may not be some force in the remarks then made, but from various considerations the committee think another attempt should be made to get the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England to assume the management of the degrees referred to.

"1. The committee are much impressed by the remarks of Br. W. W. B. Beach, M. P., at page 37 of the report of the Conference, and which are as follow:

"BRO. BEACH.—'There is considerable similarity in the working in Scotland and Ireland, America and Canada, and if certain points of want of similitude were conceded, the whole of the working might be made almost identical or uniform. The English working seems to be the only working different to a general system prevailing through the rest of these

countries. Hitherto Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England have laid down the abstract rule that no new degree shall be considered or recognized, because at the time of the union certain conditions were agreed to and insisted on. They have had no special reason since that time to reverse the decision at which they then arrived. They did so on one occasion with reference to the Mark degree, but on the confirmation of the minutes, they repealed their own deliberate opinion. But if they were to be approached in a different manner, and told that though they might believe these degrees to be intrinsically of no importance as far as the integrity of Freemasonry goes, but that a general system of uniformity being arrived at, if they could be induced to join or to consent to a general system, the whole of the system of Freemasonry of these various countries might be made almost uniform; then I think a degree of influence would be brought to bear to which hitherto they have been strangers. There would be two courses for them to adopt: the one would be to consent to recognize these degrees by themselves, and the other would be to give a tacit acknowledgment of them. They might be told that if they would not consent to work them themselves—which they might reasonably consent to do—they should give a consent to some organization which would take the position they themselves were not anxious to occupy. That seems to me a most desirable state of things to arrive at; and I, for myself, considering the number of Masons in England who are interested in promoting such a change, see no reason why it should not be promoted and arrived at.

“2. In all other countries where the English language is spoken, except England, the Grand Lodges and Chapters are the recognized guardians of these degrees, and there seems no good reason why England should stand alone, when the only effect of her system is to exclude her members from Lodges in other countries.

“3. The committee would also remind the Supreme Chapter that any former communications made to the Grand Chapter of England had reference to the Mark degree alone, and contained merely a narrative of its position in England; but now a good deal of information as to the origin and history of the degree, and the practical inconvenience arising from different workings under different constitutions, and the propriety of assimilating them is fully brought out, and it is right the Grand Chapter of England should have an opportunity of considering these.

“4. The committee would not desire the recognition of any new Masonic governing body in England if this step could possibly be avoided; 1st, because such body exists in no other country; and, 2d, because were such body recognized and becoming numerically very powerful, as it undoubtedly would, it might affect prejudicially the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England.

(Signed,) “A. CANNON, *Chairman*.
(Signed,) “L. MACKERSY, *G. S. E.*”

After discussion the report was approved, and the First Grand Principal directed to communicate the same to the First Grand Principal of England, with the view of ascertaining whether any arrangement can be made by which the objects of the report can be effected. No answer has yet been received from the Grand Chapter of England; but should England agree to the proposition of Scotland, a great point will be gained, and the position assumed by the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania will be deprived of its main support. We hope England will give her consent.

Warrants for two new Chapters were ordered to be issued.

After discussion of the subject, it was unanimously voted that, "in consequence of the Grand Lodge of Scotland having agreed to confer a degree upon the actual Masters of Lodges, to give up the working of Past Master's degree, and to expunge it from the series of degrees worked under charters granted by the Supreme Chapter." This action bids a farewell to the Past Master's Degree in the Grand Chapter of Scotland.

The question of the recognition of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was again before the Grand Chapter for action, a committee having reported against recognition. The reasons given by the committee for not recognizing Nova Scotia being novel to us, and so much in opposition to the position usually taken by American Grand Chapters on such questions, we give the report entire, and propound the following questions: What has dollars and cents to do with the question of the legality of the formation of a Grand Chapter? Is not the only question necessary to be decided this: Has the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia been formed in the manner usually recognized by the Craft as legal? If it has, then she must be admitted into the family of Grand Chapters. If not, then repudiate her on that ground; but not because she has not sufficient funds to sustain her existence, or as many members as some subordinate Chapters. We hope our Companions of Scotland will reconsider this action, and do as nearly all other Grand Chapters have done—admit her to membership. The report is as follows:

"In December, 1869, the Supreme Chapter, on considering a report of the committee relative to the formation of this body, unanimously resolved that no countenance be given to it. The report of the committee on which this resolution proceeded narrated the fact that there were only five Chapters in Nova Scotia, and that of these only three had joined in the movement.

"By letter dated 19th December, 1871, a request for recognition by the Supreme Chapter is made, and a printed copy of the proceedings of the 'Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, 1870-71,' is sent for the information of the Supreme Chapter.

"From this last-mentioned document it appears that there are three Chapters on roll of the 'Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia.' That the total number of members of Chapters holding of it is 136. Thus during last year the number admitted was 30, and that the balance at the credit of the 'Grand Chapter' is 146 dollars 46 cents, or in English money, £30 1s. 11d.

"In these circumstances the committee cannot recommend recognition. To recognize as a Grand Chapter a body having fewer members, fewer admissions during the year, and less funds at its credit, than each of several Subordinate Chapters holding of the Supreme Chapter which could be named, appears to your committee to be making a burlesque of Grand Chapters, and has a manifest tendency to lower the dignity and impair the efficiency of Grand Chapters in general. Moreover, the Chapters holding of the Supreme Chapter in Nova Scotia do not desire such recognition to be accorded, and the committee think it would be most inexpedient to give any countenance to the body now seeking recognition.

"WILLIAM HAY, *Chairman*.

"L. MACKERSY, *G. S. E.*"

The Right Hon. the Earl of Rosslyn, First Grand Principal.
 Lindsay Mackersy, W. Y., of Edinburgh, Grand Scribe E.
 Number of Chapters, 107.

TENNESSEE.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held in the city of Nashville on the 8th of November, 1871. M. E. William H. Armstrong presided. Eighty-four Chapters were represented.

The annual address of the Grand High Priest is short, and relates principally to matters of local interest. In speaking of the want of uniformity of work in the State, and the objections that have been made to receiving the work adopted by the Grand Chapter, by Companions who "have not yet reached that point in the knowledge of Capitular Masonry where Masonry begins," he makes use of the following language, which will apply to other jurisdictions besides Tennessee:

"Ignorance is inexcusable in this age of Light, and to obtain more light should be the object of every Mason.

"We find self-opinioned, ignorant men everywhere—in Church, in State, and in Masonry, exhibiting the same characteristics. They oppose every object that calls for a united effort. They are willing to see the beautiful ceremonies of our noble Craft made ridiculous, if by that means a few, more ignorant than themselves, may consider *them* wise. They oppose the publication of Masonic books, periodicals, newspaper articles, or anything that would throw a ray of light; and if in your counsels their advice is not followed, they become greatly incensed."

In speaking of the "standard of morals" in his jurisdiction, he makes use of the following strong but truthful language:

In most places I have found the standard of morals high, in others too much neglected. I have no desire, neither would it be possible, to make of ours a denominational or temperance organization; still, as it is founded on the principle of virtue, and as the law which is to govern every Mason is the Great Light contained in the Holy Bible, we cannot insist too strongly upon moral qualifications. Among those who are taught never to use the name of Deity but with that reverence which is due from the creature to the Creator, the profane swearer, the drunkard, the libertine, and the dram-seller have no place; and how much worse is it when such men are placed in official positions, and held up as examples and models. These are those who draw on us reproach and condemnation. Those who are guilty of such practices should be healed, or we should remove them fearlessly and without partiality. Companions, will you see to this when you return to your subordinate jurisdictions?"

He reports that many questions on Masonic law and usage have been asked him during the year, but only two of which he deems of sufficient importance to lay before the Grand Chapter, as follows:

"Companion Bone, H. P. of McMinnville Chapter, asks this question:

“Can a Chapter U. D. exercise discipline?” instancing the case of the P. S. of his Chapter, who was guilty of ‘gross unmasonic conduct.’ He had been in the community about three years, having a dimit from a Chapter in England. He represented himself as a single man, while he had a wife in New York. He had stolen from a Companion R. A. Mason, and then absconded to parts unknown.

“It has been asked, ‘Is it necessary for an actual Past Master to take the Past Master’s degree in the Chapter prior to exaltation?’”

Both these questions he answered in the affirmative. The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom these decisions had been referred, submitted the following report:

“In answer to the question, ‘Can a Chapter under dispensation exercise discipline?’

“We answer: It can.

“To the question, ‘Is it necessary for an actual Past Master to take the Past Master’s degree in the Chapter?’

“We answer: It has not been the custom in Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction to confer the Past Master’s degree in the Chapter as a Chapter degree upon actual Past Masters, or to charge them the usual fee required of others; and we are of opinion that it is unnecessary, and recommend that it be not done.”

The first clause of this report was adopted, and the second clause rejected.

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted the following report, which was adopted:

“The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, having had referred to them a resolution asking the Grand Chapter, in substance, to require all Royal Arch Masons, whether members of any Chapter or not, to pay dues to the Subordinate Chapter within whose local jurisdiction they may reside, beg leave to report that this Grand Chapter has not the constitutional power to make such a regulation or to enforce the same by any Masonic law.”

In this action we fully concur, but trust that the day is not far distant when some means will be found by which all Companions will be compelled to affiliate with a Chapter, or cease to derive the benefits incident to having received the degrees. Non-affiliates are becoming too numerous, and some means should be devised, before it is too late, to check this evil.

The following resolution was adopted:

“*Resolved*, That any Companion feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of any Subordinate Chapter, may, at any time within three months after sentence, appeal to the Grand Chapter; and on his application the Secretary shall make out and forward to the Grand Secretary, forthwith, a full and complete transcript of the proceedings had in the case, including the testimony and the rulings of the High Priest on the trial; and, if required, the Secretary shall furnish a copy of said transcript to the appellant.”

No reason is given for the adoption of this resolution, and we think the Grand Chapter will find that it has made a mistake in allowing such a length of time, *after sentence*, for appeal.

The Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was recognized.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was written by Comp. Geo. S. Blackie, Assistant Grand Secretary, in which he reviews, in a very condensed and satisfactory manner, the proceedings of forty-one Grand Chapters—home and foreign—ours for the year 1870 being among the number. We might, with profit to the Companions of our District, use the scissors freely with this report, but space will not permit. We will leave Tennessee, expressing the hope that, hereafter, her printer will pay more attention to her dress.

Comp. A. J. Wheeler, of Memphis, was elected Grand High Priest.

Comp. John Frizzell, of Nashville, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of chartered Chapters, 90. Number of R. : A. : Masons, 4,122.

VIRGINIA.

The Annual Grand Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held in the city of Richmond, December 13, 1871. M. : E. : Comp. John P. Little, Grand High Priest, presided—thirty-two Chapters being represented.

The business transacted was of a local character, and not of special interest to the Craft outside of that jurisdiction.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, which is very short. No decisions were reported.

Speaking of the condition of the Craft in his jurisdiction, he says :

“I find that our branch of the Order is flourishing ; that the Companions possess true fervency and zeal in carrying out the knowledge of the Chapter degrees ; that the Light is spreading ; and that our ritual is closely followed and well taught.

“During the past twenty years there has been a wonderful revival of Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia. At the beginning of this period, the knowledge of these beautiful degrees was concentrated in a few places, and only possessed by a few persons. I could readily name the half dozen Masons in our jurisdiction who alone thoroughly possessed this knowledge, while now they may be counted by the hundred. Let this improvement continue ; let the Light shine forth. By having the work illustrated at every meeting of the Grand Chapter, and by having a Grand Lecturer actively employed throughout our jurisdiction, we can soon have every Chapter well instructed, and a uniform system of perfect work prevailing within our limits.

Referring to the Council degrees, he says :

“I find in our border Chapters some confusion, arising from visiting Companions who have not taken the Council degrees at all, or who have taken them in separate Councils, not acknowledging Chapter authority. If they have never taken them at all, they cannot be present during all of our Chapter work. Our laws would forbid this. If they have taken them in distinct Councils, their own laws forbid them to sit with us when working in the Council degrees. I would recommend that this matter be brought to the attention of the various Grand Chapters and Grand Coun-

cils in this country, and that a committee be appointed for this purpose, in order that we may all possess uniformity in Chapter work."

The Grand Chapter having heretofore tried the plan here proposed without success, the recommendation of the Grand High Priest was not concurred in. We would suggest to our Companions of Virginia that there is one plan which they have not tried, and which, in our opinion, is the only one that will bring them peace and quiet on this subject, namely, strike the degrees from your Chapters, and let the Companions who may desire to do so form Councils and confer the degrees therein.

The Grand Chapter of West Virginia was recognized.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was submitted by Comp. Wm. B. Isaacs; and as the Companion has taken the extreme of the new idea started for reports, viz: *brevity*, we give it entire, and express the hope that the day is not far distant when Comp. Isaacs will be able to resume his position in the "Mutual Admiration Society:"

"He is again compelled, by force of circumstances, to throw himself on the indulgence of the Grand Chapter. His public duties and private engagements have been such constant and unceasing consumers of his time, by day and by night, as to prevent him from taking even a cursory glance over the proceedings with which he has been favored. As he advances in years, his engagements appear to increase *pari passu*; and he would respectfully request the Grand Council to relieve him, at least for the present, from further service in this branch of the Royal Art, from which he, personally, has derived so much instruction and pleasure, without, he fears, making a corresponding return, either to this Grand Chapter or to his Companions of the 'reportorial corps.' In asking thus to be relieved, he would beg to say to his fellow-members of the 'Mutual Admiration Society,' that he has lost none of his zeal in their cause. While their criticisms have at times been severe, doubtless they were deserved; and he begs to return to them, collectively and individually, his thanks for the kindnesses and courtesies he has received at their hands."

Comp. R. E. Withers, of Lynchburg, was elected Grand High Priest. Comp. John Dove, of Richmond, was re-elected Grand Secretary. Number of Chapters, 34. Number of R. A. Masons returned, 1,841.

VERMONT.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Vermont was held in the city of Burlington, June 14, 1872. M. E. Comp. Edward A. Jewett, Grand High Priest, presided. Representatives from twenty-four Chapters were present.

The Grand High Priest delivered his annual address, in which he congratulated the Companions "for the continued prosperity of our beloved Order throughout the State." He announced the death of Comp. B. Davenport, Past Grand High Priest, in appropriate terms.

He reported the following decisions as having been rendered by him during the year:

"Can a Companion be elected High Priest of a Chapter without first having served either as King or Scribe?"

"Has a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons a right to confer the Past Master's Degree upon a Master elect of a Lodge?"

"To the first question my decision was, that any Companion in good standing in his Chapter was eligible to the office of High Priest.

"To the second question I replied in the negative. No Chapter has any right to confer any of the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry upon any person, unless he shall have been elected in a regular manner, according to the General Regulations of this Grand Chapter."

Both of these decisions are contrary to the rulings of our Grand Chapter.

We quote, for the information of our Companions, the following remarks of the Grand High Priest on a subject which has been discussed heretofore in our Jurisdiction. We trust the wishes of Comp. Jewett may soon be realized:

"I cannot let this occasion pass, Companions, without entering my solemn protest against the action of certain persons calling themselves Masons, who for several months past have been about disseminating what they are pleased to call Masonic degrees, under the name of the 'Ancient Primitive Rite of Memphis of thirty-three degrees.'

"Over a year ago one B. S. Hill, and later one Harry J. Seymour, (an expelled member of the Scottish Rite,) the latter claiming authority from the Grand Orient of France to do so, went about the State and for a consideration conferred these degrees and established Chapters, Councils, &c., of the Rite.

"Their aim seems to be to get control of the Grand Bodies, and to this end they have offered to confer their degrees upon prominent Masons free of charge. And generally, when they could not get one price, they have taken another. Some of their followers have stated that their system would do away with the higher degrees of Masonry, and that their Chapter degrees were, to all intents and purposes, the same as those of the York Rite; and many of them do not deny the fact.

"Many of them, I am informed, are led to believe that the possessors of this *bugus* Thirty-third degree would be recognized in England, France, and elsewhere as regular Masons of that grade; whereas they would not be recognized or known, so far as those degrees are concerned, to be Masons at all.

"It is certainly surprising to think that in this day of light and knowledge Masons of good standing should allow themselves to be drawn into such institutions; but it would seem that they must be misled, and made to believe that at no distant day a union is to take place between the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and themselves, and that all will be then recognized as genuine Thirty-third Masons. That day will never arrive; and they will, sooner or later, (if they have not already,) awake and find that they have been relieved of a little filthy lucre, and received several high-sounding titles which amount to nothing.

"If such men are allowed to go about peddling rites and humbugs, spreading discord and dissensions, and thus imposing upon the Craft, ought we not, in no mistaken terms, place the seal of our condemnation upon the institution?"

A charter was voted for the formation of a new Chapter, to be known as "Skitchawang Chapter." *Beautiful name!*

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, not being ready with its report, was requested to hand the same to the Committee on Publication, when ready, to be incorporated with the proceedings. We suppose the committee is still *getting ready*, as the proceedings do not contain the report.

M. E. Comp. Edward A. Jewett, of Burlington, was re-elected Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. H. S. Whitcomb, of Burlington, was re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 24. Number of R. A. Masons, 1,651.

WEST VIRGINIA.

We have received the pamphlet containing the proceedings of the Convention called to form the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, together with the proceedings of its first Grand Convocation. No business other than the election and installation of officers, and such as was necessary to place the new Grand Chapter in working order, was transacted. The business transacted was in regular form, and from the energy displayed by the Companions of this new Grand Chapter, we are satisfied that it will not be long before her position in the great family of Grand Chapters will be such as to reflect credit upon the Companions who have labored so faithfully for the promotion of the interest of the R. A. Craft in this new State.

At the invitation of the Companions, M. E. Comp. John P. Little, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, was present, and "consecrated, constituted, and dedicated the Grand Chapter in due and ancient form," and installed the Grand Officers. At the conclusion of the installation ceremonies, Comp. Little delivered a very interesting and instructive address, commencing as follows :

"In the name of the Grand Chapter of Virginia I greet you. I congratulate you on the wise and worthy manner in which you have formed your Grand Body. I welcome you into that glorious brotherhood of Grand Chapters in which you now hold an honored place. Remember then, always, the position you occupy, the authority you wield, the power you exercise ; and ever live up to the principles of our noble Order, and carry out to the fullest extent those time-honored and truth-established precepts which guide the conduct of Royal Arch Masons."

He urged unqualified obedience to all acts of the Grand Chapter by its subordinates, and says :

"You have always a remedy, for you can always appeal from one meeting of the Grand Chapter to another. While you cannot remove a Grand officer, nor refuse to obey a Grand Chapter edict, you can at your annual meetings elect such officers as are wise and worthy, and form such edicts

as your experience will prove to be right and proper. Every Mason and every Grand body may err, yet Masonic Law, administered by upright men, will always result in right. Hence, in Masonry there is never necessity for revolution. Harmony can always be maintained, and authority be always preserved; the true light *will* shine if obstructions be removed. Therefore let the true Mason, however certain he may be that he is right and others wrong, wait a time with patience, if he cannot convince his Brother, and all will at last go well."

Comp. Little, as most Virginia Companions are, is very hostile to the General Grand Chapter, as will be seen from the following extract from his address:

"One thing I warn you against, and that is the seductive influences which may induce you to become a member of the General Grand Chapter, for this will be to give up in part at least your sovereignty. It will divide your powers, interfere with your work by depriving you of the Council Degrees, and render you a subordinate body.

"You have been constituted into a Grand Chapter, with full authority to organize Chapters which shall confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Select and Royal Masters, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch. The members composing your Grand Body have all, by charter, the right to confer all these degrees. These chartered rights cannot be taken away except by the unanimous consent of all the Chapters. And this is in accordance with Masonic law. For in every Chapter, Grand or Subordinate, we have to deal with two distinct classes of things—matters of Masonry, matters of business. In matters of business the majority rules; in matters of Masonry the majority does not rule; there must be unanimity, or no law can exist. As one black ball will reject a candidate, although ninety-nine white balls may be cast for him, so one dissenting Chapter will prevent a change from being made in so important a matter as whether a Masonic degree shall be conferred or not. Before you can join the General Grand Chapter and strike out from your work the Council Degrees, every Chapter in your jurisdiction must give its free consent, or the action would not be valid. You cannot part with a portion of your sovereignty, except by the free will and accord of all the sub-sovereignities which constitute your Grand Chapter."

Had it been our duty to advise our young sister on the occasion of her birth, we would certainly have urged her, with the lights before us, to remain independent of the General Grand Chapter, as Comp. Little did, but would have felt ourselves called upon to dissent from the advice he gave them in regard to the Council Degrees. We would have said to them, Let one of your first official acts be to sever the Council Degrees from the Chapters. They have no business in the Chapter, and never should have been placed there. Such was the course of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, in relation to them, and we are sure that the action has never been regretted. We trust our young sister will find it to her interest to do likewise. The Grand officers for the year are as follows: M. E. Thomas H. Logan, of Wheeling, Grand High Priest; R. E. Frank Rex, Grand King; R. E. L. A. Luce, Grand Scribe; R. E. Elijah Day, Grand Treasurer; R. E. O. S. Long, of Wheeling, Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters, 5. Number of R. A. Masons, 252.

CONCLUSION.

We have now completed our first effort as Reporter for the Grand Chapter, and trust that the result of our labors will meet with the approbation of the Companions. We have endeavored, to the best of our ability, to give a fair *resumé* of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters as far as they have been placed in our hands. In doing so we have avoided all personalities, and confined our labors to that of presenting what we deemed would be of interest to the Companions of our jurisdiction. By way of explanation we would state, that immediately after the close of the last Annual Convocation of our Grand Chapter, we called upon Comp. Smith, who had been appointed Chairman of the Committee, but who was absent from the city at the time, to notify him of his appointment, and offered our assistance in the preparation of the report, if it should be required. Subsequently Comp. Smith informed the undersigned that it would be impossible for him to undertake the duty, and requested that I assume the task. Not wishing to have our committee fail in the discharge of its duty, we reluctantly consented, and now present our work for the inspection of the Overseers. In consequence of the course pursued by many of the Committees on Correspondence in other jurisdictions towards the Reports of our predecessor, considerable embarrassment has been experienced at times as to how to proceed. We finally concluded not to notice what had been said by them, except in the case of Comp. Horner, of Louisiana, who, by the course he had thought proper to pursue in relation to the last Report of Comp. Mason, had placed our Grand Chapter in a false position.

And now, Companions, all we have to request is that your criticisms of our work be mild, and that whatever errors we have committed may be looked upon as "errors of the head and not of the heart."

NOBLE D. LARNER, P. G. Sec. for the Committee.

Comp. L. G. Stephens, Grand Visiter and Lecturer, submitted the following report, which was adopted :

To the M. E. G. H. P., King, Scribe and Companions of the G. O. of the District of Columbia.

COMPANIONS : During the past year I have visited the several Chapters in the jurisdiction as often as required by the Grand Constitution, and it affords me great pleasure to report that they are all practising the work as adopted by the Grand Chapter. Owing to the thorough instruction given to the various officers by my predecessor, it has seldom been my duty to make any corrections in the work. Shortly after my appointment I endeavored to establish a school of instruction at the Temple, but all my efforts in that direction proved unsuccessful ; for very often I found no one in attendance on the nights appointed. My time, however, has been considerably occupied in giving private instruction to those who desired it, and I find the Companions generally prefer private to public instruction. I also appointed monthly meetings with the Companions of Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, which were well attended by the

officers of that Chapter, whom I found very zealous to perfect themselves in the work. These meetings were continued until the officers were well versed in the ritual.

Respectfully submitted,

L. G. STEPHENS,
Grand Visitor and Lecturer.

The following report of the Finance Committee was read and adopted :

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 14, 1872.

To the Officers and Members of the G. R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia.

COMPANIONS : Your Committee on Finance respectfully beg leave to report, that they have examined the books and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer of this Grand Chapter, and have found them carefully and correctly kept. The financial condition of the Grand Chapter is as follows :
Received from all sources during the year..... \$819 00
Disbursed as per vouchers on hand..... 1,332 50

Leaving a balance due the Grand Treasurer of..... 513 50

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. B. MACGROTTY,
J. H. JOCHUM,
ANDREW WOODS.

Comps. Wm. M. Smith and J. G. Smith submitted the following amendment to the Constitution :

Amend sec. 3 of art. XVI, by substituting the word "five" for "three," in the 2d line of said section.

Comps. Larner and Davis submitted the following amendment to the Constitution :

Amend sec. 3, art. XVI, to read as follows : The dues to the Grand Chapter from the Subordinate Chapters shall be as follows : \$3 for each exaltation, and 50 cents for each member on their rolls.

The following circular from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was read by the Grand Secretary :

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF NOVA SCOTIA,
HALIFAX, N. S., June 18, 1872.

At a meeting of the Committee of General Purposes of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Nova Scotia, held on the 17th instant, to consider a report from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland declining to recognize our Supreme Grand Body, it was thought that as the reasons advanced for non-recognition were of such a frivolous and unsubstantial nature, a reply would be superfluous.

The committee therefore contented themselves with ordering that the document itself be published, together with the resolutions passed by them; all of which are hereto appended:

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND,
 SCRIBE'S CHAMBERS, 8 NORTH ST. DAVID STREET,
 EDINBURGH, 1st June, 1872.

DEAR SIR AND COMPANION: I duly received your letter of 19th December last. It reached me just after a Quarterly Communication of the Supreme Chapter, and therefore I could not bring it before that body till the next Quarterly Communication. A report upon the matter referred to in your letter was given in and adopted at next meeting of Supreme Chapter, and which report you will find printed at page 77 of the Supreme Chapter Reporter, a copy of which is sent herewith. I delayed replying to your letter until I could get a copy Reporter to send you, but the printing has been most unaccountably delayed. I had a proof in print on 23d March last, but owing to some Chapters delaying to send returns, and from other causes, I only got the copies this week. I now lose no time in sending you copy, from which you will observe the Supreme Chapter is not prepared to countenance the movement in Nova Scotia to establish an independent Grand Chapter by three Subordinate Chapters.

I am, dear sir and Comp., yours, truly and fraternally,

L. MACKERSY, G. S. E.

JAMES GOSSIP, ESQ., *Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

EXTRACT FROM PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

Report by the Supreme Committee on Communication from the Nova Scotia craving recognition there of a body styling itself the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.

"In December, 1869, the Supreme Chapter, on considering a report of the committee relative to the formation of this body, unanimously resolved that no countenance be given to it. The report of the committee on which this resolution proceeded narrated the fact that there were only five Chapters in Nova Scotia, and that of these only three had joined in the movement.

"By letter dated 19th December, 1871, a request for recognition by the Supreme Chapter is made, and a printed copy of the proceedings of the 'Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, 1870-'71,' is sent for the information of the Supreme Chapter.

"From this last-mentioned document it appears that there are three Chapters on roll of the 'Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia;' that the total number of members of Chapters holding of it is 136; that during last year the number admitted was 30, and that the balance at the credit of the 'Grand Chapter' is \$146.46, or in English money £30 ls. 11d.

"In these circumstances the committee cannot recommend recognition. To recognize as a Grand Chapter a body having fewer members, fewer admissions during the year, and less funds at its credit than each of several Subordinate Chapters holding of the Supreme Chapter, which could be named, appears to your committee to be making a burlesque of Grand Chapters, and has a manifest tendency to lower the dignity and impair the efficiency of Grand Chapters in general. Moreover, the Chapters holding of the Supreme Chapter of Nova Scotia do not desire such recognition to be accorded, and the committee think it would be most inexpedient to give any countenance to the body now seeking recognition.

"WILLIAM HAY, *Chairman.*

"L. MACKERSY, G. S. E."

[A true copy.]

On motion, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

Whereas, by the report hereto annexed of the committee appointed by the Grand Chapter of Scotland to consider the request of the Grand Chap-

ter of Nova Scotia for recognition of their supremacy in this jurisdiction, it appears that the said Grand Chapter of Scotland finally declines the recognition demanded;

Be it resolved, That this Grand Chapter, having made every effort for the past three years to effect a complete union of all the Chapters of this Province, and having failed, now think it time that the spirit of our Constitution should be adhered to and our supreme authority over Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction positively asserted. We do therefore now declare and proclaim the Union Chapter, No. 108, Yarmouth, and St. John Chapter, 130, Pictou, both in this Province, and holding under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, as *irregular*; and further, that the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia forbids its Subordinate Chapters holding any Masonic intercourse as Royal Arch Masons with said irregular Chapters until such time as this edict is revoked.

Further resolved, That a copy of this circular be forwarded to all Chapters in this jurisdiction, and to all the Grand Chapters in the world.

JAMES GOSSIP,

Grand Secretary G. C. of Nova Scotia.

The statistics as to the number of Chapters under the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and the number of members, as presented by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, is incorrect. We had five chartered Chapters and nearly 200 *actual* members at the close of our last year.

J. G.

Comp. J. E. F. Holmead moved that a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to each of the Subordinate Chapters, for their information and guidance.

Comp. Lerner, as the Grand Representative of the Excellent Grand Chapter of Scotland, requested, as this was a matter affecting said Grand Chapter, and from which no information in relation to the subject had been received from Scotland, that the whole subject, as a matter of courtesy to the Grand Chapter of Scotland, be postponed until the May Convocation; which request was unanimously complied with

The following appropriations were made: \$50 to Masonic Hall Association, for rent to Nov. 1, 1872; \$1 60 to Evening Star, for advertising; and \$57 to Republican Job Office, for printing Grand Constitution and blank Commissions.

Commissions were received appointing the following Companions as Grand Representatives near this Grand Chapter; when, on motion, they were received, and the Companions recognized as such:

Albert Pike, for Grand Chapter of Mississippi.

John Edwin Mason, for Grand Chapter of Canada.

Noble D. Lerner, for Grand Chapter of Maine.

The Grand Chapter then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing Masonic year, with the following result:

Comp.	A. T. LONGLEY.....	M.: E.: G.: H.: Priest.
"	N. D. LARNER.....	R.: E.: Deputy G.: H.: Priest.
"	I. L. JOHNSON.....	R.: E.: Grand King.
"	ALLAN WALL.....	R.: E.: Grand Scribe.
"	L. G. STEPHENS.....	R.: E.: Grand Secretary.
"	CHAUNCEY SMITH.....	R.: E.: Grand Treasurer.
"	ALFRED HOLMEAD.....	Rev. and E.: Grand Chaplain.
"	G. W. WELLS.....	E.: G.: Capt. of Host.

On motion of Comp. Larner, the Grand Secretary was authorized to have six hundred copies of the proceedings printed.

No further business appearing, the Grand Chapter was called to a resumed Convocation on Monday evening, 18th inst., at 7 o'clock.

C. W. HANCOCK,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, 1873.

The Grand Chapter met at 7 o'clock and resumed labor.

PRESENT.

M.: E.:	Comp. JOS. DANIELS.....	Grand High Priest.
R.: E.:	Comp. J. E. F. HOLMEAD.....	as Deputy Grand High Priest.
"	" D. S. JONES.....	Grand King.
"	" C. W. HANCOCK.....	Grand Secretary.
"	" CHAUNCEY SMITH.....	Grand Treasurer.
E.:	" H. S. MERRILL.....	Grand Captain Host.
"	" ALFRED HOLMEAD.....	Rev. Grand Chaplain.
"	" L. G. STEPHENS.....	Grand Vis. and Lecturer.
"	" WM. R. SINGLETON.....	as Grand Principal Sojourner.
"	" SAMUEL BAXTER.....	as Grand Royal Arch Capt.
"	" P. S. CRAIG.....	Grand Master 3d Vail.
"	" ALLAN WALL.....	Grand Master 2d Vail.
"	" JOSEPH S. MCCOY.....	Grand Master 1st Vail.
"	" L. STODDARD.....	Grand Janitor.

And Representatives and Past High Priests from all the Chapters.

On motion, a charter was granted Mount Horeb Chapter, the petitioners having complied with the requirements of the Grand Constitution.

On motion of Comp. J. E. F. Holmead, the Grand Secretary was authorized to draw a draft for amount due the Grand Treasurer.

At the request of the M.: E.: Grand High Priest, M.: E.: Comp. J. E. F. Holmead, P.: G.: H.: P.:, installed M.: E.: Comp. A. T. Longley as Grand High Priest, who, after appropriate remarks, installed the following elective officers :

Comp. N. D. LARNER.....R.: E.: *Deputy Grand High Priest.*
 " I. L. JOHNSON.....R.: E.: *Grand King.*
 " ALLAN WALL.....R.: E.: *Grand Scribe.*
 " L. G. STEPHENS.....R.: E.: *Grand Secretary.*
 " CHAUNCEY SMITH.....R.: E.: *Grand Treasurer.*
 " GEO. W. WELLSE.: *Grand Captain Host.*
 " ALFRED HOLMEAD.....*Rev. and E.: Grand Chaplain.*

The M.: E.: Grand High Priest made the following appointments :

Comp. JOS. S. MCCOY.....E.: *Grand Visitor and Lecturer.*
 " JOHN W. GRIFFIN.....E.: *Grand Principal Sojourner.*
 " W. H. EARLE.....E.: *Grand Royal Arch Captain.*
 " B. S. HEDRICK.....E.: *Grand Master Third Vail.*
 " ANDREW WOODSE.: *Grand Master Second Vail.*
 " F. G. DANIELS.....E.: *Grand Master First Vail.*
 " L. STODDARD*Grand Janitor.*

and installed all except Comps. Earle and Hedrick, who being absent, the M.: E.: Grand High Priest requested Comp. Wall, Grand Scribe, to install them at the next convocation of Potomac Chapter.

The Grand High Priest announced the following as the standing committees for the year:

Committee on Examination—

Comp. ANDREW GLASS, P. H. P., No. 6.
 " D. S. JONES, P. H. P., No. 5.
 " P. S. CRAIG, H. P., No. 4.

Committee on Grievances—

Comp. GEO. B. CLARKE, P. H. P., No. 2.
 " SAMUEL BAXTER, P. H. P., No. 3.
 " R. W. HARDY, P. H. P., No. 8.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence—

Comp. E. B. MACGROTTY, P. H. P., No. 4.
 " C. W. HANCOCK, P. H. P., No. 8.
 " C. E. COON, H. P., No. 5.

Committee on Accounts—

- Comp. J. H. JOCHUM, H. P., No. 1.
 “ J. E. PORTER, P. H. P., No. 6.
 “ ROSS A. FISH, P. H. P., No. 2.

Committee on Jurisprudence—

- Comp. J. E. F. HOLMEAD, P. G. H. P.
 “ J. G. SMITH, P. G. H. P.
 “ JOHN LOCKIE, P. G. H. P.

A communication was received from the Secretary of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, dated November 26, notifying the Grand Chapter that at a stated Convocation of Potomac Chapter, held on the above date, R. E. Comp. Allan Wall duly installed E. Comp. Wm. H. Earle as Grand Royal Arch Captain, and E. Comp. B. S. Hedrick as Grand Master of the Third Vail.

No further business appearing, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

L. G. STEPHENS,
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 4, 1872.*

A Special Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at the Hall of Hiram Lodge, southwest corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 19th street, at 8 o'clock, P. M.

PRESENT.

R. E. COMP.	N. D. LARNER.....	as Grand High Priest.
“	“ I. L. JOHNSON.....	as Deputy Grand High Priest.
“	“ JOHN LOCKIE, P. G. H. P.....	as Grand King.
“	“ JOSEPH S. MCCOY.....	as Grand Scribe.
“	“ L. G. STEPHENS.....	Grand Secretary.
“	“ EDWARD FITZKE.....	as Grand Treasurer.
E. “	SAMUEL BAXTER.....	as Grand Captain of the Host.
“	“ A. HOLMEAD.....	Rev. Grand Chaplain.
“	“ JOHN W. GRIFFIN.....	Grand Principal Sojourner.
“	“ R. A. FISH.....	as Grand Royal Arch Captain.
“	“ JAS. C. POYNTON.....	as Grand Master of 3d Vail.
“	“ ANDREW WOODS.....	Grand Master of 2d Vail.
“	“ E. B. MACGROTTY.....	as Grand Master of 1st Vail.
“	“ EDWARD EDWARDS.....	as Grand Janitor.

Past General Grand High Priest A. G. Mackey.

Past Grand King R. W. Hardy.

Past Grand Secretary C. W. Hancock.

And Representatives and Past High Priests from Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The Grand Chapter having been opened in due form, the Grand High Priest stated that the Grand Chapter had been called for the purpose of instituting Mt. Horeb Chapter, No. 7, for which the Grand Chapter had granted a charter at its last Convocation, and announced the following appointments:

<i>Bearer of Incense</i>	Comp. CHAS. E. COON.
<i>Bearers of the Ark</i>	{ Comp. J. S. CUNNINGHAM,
	“ A. K. WILLIAMS,
	“ JOHN M. SMITH.

The Grand Chapter, having been informed that Mt. Horeb Chapter was ready to receive it, was formed in procession and proceeded to their hall, installed their officers and instituted them into a regular Chapter, No. 7, on the Register of the Grand Chapter.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, Comp. N. D. Larner, as Grand High Priest, delivered the following address:

COMPANIONS: In consequence of the illness of our M.: E.: Grand High Priest, I have been very unexpectedly, and with short notice, called upon to perform the ceremonies of instituting Mount Horeb Chapter, which is to be known as No. 7 on the Register of our Grand Chapter. I very much regret the absence of our Grand High Priest, as he had fully prepared himself to conduct these ceremonies, and would therefore have been able to conduct them in a more acceptable manner than I have done. It has afforded me great pleasure, I assure you, to be permitted to perform the interesting ceremonies which have just been concluded, that of bringing into existence a new member of our young and flourishing Grand Chapter. The interest in such an event as has transpired here to-night—of one who has been so closely identified with Royal Arch Masonry as it at present exists in our jurisdiction—and who, by force of circumstances was compelled to take a prominent and important part in the proceedings which brought into existence our Grand Chapter, and but for the existence of which we would not now be enjoying the pleasures of this interesting occasion, can only be appreciated by those whose good fortune it was at that time to be in the front rank.

Companions, you have now been placed in a position where it will be necessary for you to look well to the gates of that part of our Sanctuary which the Grand Chapter has placed in your keeping. Guard them well, and see that none enter except those who, after the most careful examin-

ation, shall prove themselves worthy to receive the honors they solicit, and competent to perform any work, "no matter how difficult or dangerous" it may be, that shall be assigned to them. See to it that the standing of those who may apply to you for admittance within the sacred precincts of our "Holy Tabernacle" is such, not only in Masonry, but in the community in which they reside, that if admitted, every Companion can with pleasure receive and acknowledge them as Companions of whom no one need be ashamed. The importance of the duty which belongs to each one of you, of being careful in the selection of the material for your work, cannot be too often brought to the attention and impressed upon the minds of all of us, not only of the Companions of this new Chapter, but of those of our older and more experienced Companions of the other Chapters in this jurisdiction. I have not brought this particular duty to your attention this evening because I have any fears that it will not be properly attended to by you in the new and important sphere of duty in which you have now been placed, but simply to more deeply impress its importance upon your minds at this happy moment and at the very threshold of your existence, when all is peace and you are looking forward to a bright and prosperous future for your new Chapter. Many of you are from other Chapters in our jurisdiction. Never forget from whence you came, but let your conduct towards all be such as will tend to unite us all more closely in the bonds of brotherly love and affection. We are all, in our anxiety to build up our Chapter, apt to go a little too far and overlook traits in the characters of our applicants, which, upon more careful consideration and inquiry, would be considered a bar to their entering within the vails of the Sanctuary. To avoid such mistakes, let your committees take sufficient time to investigate and scrutinize most thoroughly every applicant that shall present himself to you. A faithful discharge of duty upon the part of your committees on examination may be the means of saving your Chapter many days of sorrow and mortification in the future. Companions, from my knowledge of the character and ability of many of your members, some of whom, for their zeal and fidelity to the craft, have heretofore been exalted to high and responsible positions, I feel confident that these and other important duties which have now been imposed upon you, will be faithfully attended to, and that the Grand Chapter will never, in consequence of any of your acts in the future, have cause to regret the granting of a charter to you. Attend faithfully to your duties, Companions, and so act that the Chapter will at once take a high and enviable position in the R. A. family of our District. Be prompt in your attendance upon its convocations, whenever it shall be in your power to do so, and by this means encourage those who may be exalted to positions in the Chapter, to a faithful and zealous discharge of their various duties. It is very discouraging to officers who attend regularly the convocations of the Chapter to find the places which should be occupied by you vacant night after night. No matter how capable and diligent your officers may be, without your support they

must fail in the accomplishment of the results desired and which are essentially necessary to place your Chapter in such a position for good as we all wish to see it. To the officers of the Chapter let me say: You have to-night assumed positions of great importance and responsibility, and have taken upon yourselves vows which are just as important and binding as vows taken in other positions in life, and should be sacredly observed. See to it that you are always at your post, unless prevented by circumstances over which you have no control, and faithful in the discharge of your duties. Make yourselves proficient in the work of the several degrees, so that your several parts will always be properly rendered. By proper attention to these duties the Chapter will never be at a loss for officers to do the work properly, or be beholding to others to do what you ought to do yourselves. Upon the faithful discharge of duty by the officers mainly depends the prosperity of the Chapter, and I trust that each and every one of you will so perform them that your Companions will be able to speak of you with pride and satisfaction.

Companions, for want of time I have not been able to prepare myself so as to speak to you as I would like to have done, and in such a manner as the occasion demands; and in conclusion, permit me to wish you prosperity in your new undertaking, and to express the hope that your future may be full of pleasure to you all. Hide not your light, but place it on top of the *mount*, that its bright rays may be cast for good upon our whole jurisdiction.

At the conclusion of Comp. Lerner's address, P.: G.: Grand High Priest A. G. Mackey and Comp. Wm. R. Singleton, High Priest of Mount Horeb Chapter, followed in interesting remarks; after which, the Grand Chapter was closed in due form.

L. G. STEPHENS,
Grand Secretary.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be permitted, under the Charters to be issued to them, to confer the Council degrees therein, and that said degrees shall not, in any manner, be connected with the Chapters.—*May 24, 1867.*

Resolved, That hereafter a petition for a charter for a new Chapter shall not be considered by the Grand Chapter until the Grand Secretary shall be satisfied that the petitioners for the charter have paid all indebtedness to the Chapters to which they belong.—*May 31, 1869.*

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter disapproves the use of substitutes in conferring any of the degrees of Capitular Masonry, and hereby prohibits its practice in this jurisdiction.—*November 8, 1869.*

Resolved, That the Subordinate Chapters of this jurisdiction shall hereafter require all applicants for the Capitular degrees to state on their applications whether they have or have not made a like application to any other Chapter for the degrees, and also to state their occupation and place of residence.—*November 8, 1869.*

Resolved, That when a Brother has been elected to receive the degrees in a Chapter, and an objection is entered to his receiving them by a member of the Chapter in good standing, the degrees shall not be conferred upon the Brother so long as the objection shall remain ; but should the Companion who made the objection cease to be a member of the Chapter from any cause, the objection shall fall and the Brother be entitled to have the degrees conferred upon him, unless the objection shall be renewed by a member in good standing in the Chapter.—*November 14, 1870.*

STATEMENT,

Showing the numerical condition of the several Chapters in the jurisdiction, with the work of the past year and amounts due and paid by each to the Grand Chapter for 1872.

Name and number of Chapter.	No. of members per last return.	Add—			Total during year.	Deduct—					Present No. of members.	Rejected.	Amount paid by the several Chapters to the Grand Chapter.
		Exalted since.	Affiliated.	Reinstated.		Withdrawn.	Died.	Dropped.	Suspended.	Expelled.			
Columbia.....No. 1	169	16	.....	2	187	1	2	26	.....	.....	158	2	\$115 00
Washington.....No. 2	163	24	1	8	196	2	4	6	.....	.....	184	2	152 00
Mt. Vernon.....No. 3	186	17	.....	5	158	8	3	6	.....	.....	142	2	111 50
Eureka.....No. 4	150	19	.....	.....	169	.....	1	.....	1	.....	167	1	131 00
La Fayette.....No. 5	173	34	8	.....	210	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	208	1	187 50
Washington Naval.....No. 6	47	9	.....	.....	56	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	55	1	50 00
Potomac.....No. 8	73	15	3	.....	90	.....	2	4	.....	.....	84	1	65 00*
	910	134	7	15	1,066	12	13	42	1	.....	998	10	812 00

* Overpaid last year, \$11.50.

CHAUNCEY SMITH, GRAND TREASURER,

In Account with the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Dr.	Cr.		
1871.	1871.		
Nov. 14 To cash received of Grand Secretary for dues of Subordinate Chapters..	Nov. 14 By cash paid N. D. Lerner, Grand Secretary, for salary to Nov., 1871 ..	\$819 00	\$75 00
1872.	Nov. 14 By cash paid L. Stoddard, Jr., for services as Grand Janitor to Nov., 1871.		50 00
Nov. 12 From Columbia Chapter, No. 1...	Nov. 14 By cash paid John Lockie, Grand High Priest, for expenses to General Grand Chapter.....		12 50
Nov. 12 From Washington Chapter, No. 2...	Nov. 29 By cash paid J. L. Pearson, for printing		50 00
Nov. 12 From Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3...	Nov. 29 By cash paid J. L. Pearson, for printing		6 00
Nov. 12 From Eureka Chapter, No. 4.....	Feb. 24 By cash paid C. Smith, G. T., for money borrowed last year and interest.	115 00	461 00
Nov. 12 From Lafayette Chapter, No. 5...	Feb. 24 By cash paid Secretary of General Grand Chapter, for G. G. Chapter dues.	152 00	9 10
Nov. 12 From Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6.....	Feb. 24 By cash paid National Republican job printing office, for printing annual proceedings.....	111 50	220 54
Nov. 12 From Potomac Chapter, No. 8...	Feb. 24 By cash paid C. W. Hancock, G. V. and L., for salary up to Nov., 1871..	131 00	50 00
Nov. 12 From Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 7, for charter.....	Apr. 4 By cash paid Grand Lodge, for Grand Chapter's proportion of calendars.	187 50	48 00
	Apr. 4 By cash paid C. W. Hancock, for salary as Grand Secretary up to May, 1872.		75 00
	Apr. 23 By cash paid L. G. Stephens, for salary as G. V. and L. up to May, 1872.		50 00
	May 15 By cash paid Masonic Hall Association, for rent up to May, 1872.....		50 00
	May 15 By cash paid T. B. Taylor, for two reams letter-heads printing		4 50
	May 15 By cash paid B. F. French, for stationery.....	50 00	3 45
	May 15 By cash paid Philp & Solomons, for stationery.....		7 50
	June 19 By cash paid C. W. Hancock, for part of the expense of G. Sec'y's room.	65 00	84 91
	Nov. 7 By cash paid L. G. Stephens, for salary as G. V. and L. to Nov., 1872...		50 00
	Nov. 8 By cash paid C. W. Hancock, for salary as G. Secretary to Nov., 1872	90 00	75 00
	Balance on hand		\$1,332 50
			388 50
			\$1,721 00

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Representatives of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia near
other Grand Chapters.*

Ex. Comp. WM. HAY.....Scotland.
“ “ HENRY ROBERTSON.....Canada.
“ “ JOHN Y. MURRY.....Mississippi.

*Representatives of other Grand Chapters near the Grand Chapter of the
District of Columbia.*

Ex. Comp. N. D. LARNER.....Grand Chapter of Scotland.
“ “ N. D. LARNER.....Grand Chapter of Maine.
“ “ ALBERT PIKE.....Grand Chapter of Oregon.
“ “ ALBERT PIKE.....Grand Chapter of Mississippi
“ “ JOHN EDWIN MASON.....Grand Chapter of Canada.

At the Annual Convocation in November, 1872, with the names of their officers for the year ending November, 1873.

Edwards, Edw'd	Knox, Jno. O.	Proctor, J. C.
Earl, Chas. H.	Knox, Geo. W.	Penicks, Thos. B.
Essex, Josiah	Kondrup, J. C.	Potts, Jos. Y.
Enderlee, Jos. L.	Klotz, Chas.	Pearson, Isaac
Fager, J. C.	Kolb, Edward	Russell, Jno. H.
Froiseth, B. A. N.	Knapp, D. E.	Root, B. C.
Fechtig, W. C.	Kelly, A. W.	Ryneal, jr., Geo.
Foster, Thos.	Leisnitzer, E. J.	Reed, Wm. B.
Ford, C. M.	Lockie, John	Russell, Thos.
French, R. D. DeL.	Lower, W. W.	Rich, Jacob
Folker, Fred'k	Lowrie, R. W.	Robinson, J. K.
Garfield, Jas. A.	Lashorn, J. V.	Redway, R. G.
Gawler, A. H.	Lambie, Jas. B.	Reed, B. M.
Gibson, Geo.	Maguire, T. F.	Scheel, Jno. E.
Griffith, C. T.	Macarty, D. J.	St. Clair, Jas. W.
Gibson, David	Magee, J. L.	Stephens, L. G.
Graves, Jno. A.	Merrill, H. S.	Stewart, Jno. C.
Greer, Fielder W.	Mills, W. H.	Stoddard, L.
House, E. E.	Middleton, E. J.	Slater, Isaac C.
Hall, C. H.	Myers, Lewis	Slater, Jno. S.
Holmead, A.	Morgan, Henry	Strait, N. A.
Humphrey, Josiah	McKendry, Wallace	Schultz, Jno. H.
Heilbrun, L.	McKee, Jas. W.	Stevens, R. C.
Hood, H. O.	McMurray, Robert	Small, Bruce
Hills, W. H.	McGlathery, Frank	Thorp, M. R.
Hamacher, Joseph	McDonald, Alex.	Tenney, Wm. H.
Howland, G. W.	McLeod, E. M.	Tomlinson, Jno. S.
Hoover, Jno. T.	Niles, Samuel V.	Topham, Jas. S.
Hartung, C. E.	Nutze, Chas. T.	Vaux, E. P.
Hamilton, Chas. M.	Noyes, Henry O.	Wight, G. M.
Hyam, P. C.	Nailer, jr., Allison	Wine, L. D.
Hills, Thos. O.	Newhall, C. L.	Wise, Edw'd C.
Ingle, Jno. H.	Ogden, John	Wollard, J. F.
Jewell, Jno. M.	Owen, S. W.	White, Jas. W.
Johansen, H. P. T.	Patten, jr., Geo. W.	Wirt, W. W.
Jochum, J. H.	Purdy, sr., John	Ward, Geo. C.
Jarvis, C. F.	Purdy, jr., John	Wheeler, Chas. S.
Johnston, W. W.	Pyser, Jacob	Weideman, Jno.
Keeney, Sam'l A.	Poynton, J. C.	Williamson, J. B.
Kerr, John	Parker, M. M.	

Reinstated.

Stevens, R. C.

Coffran, J. W.

Withdrawn.

Beckett, Thos.

Died.

Gibbons, Chas. H.

Creaser, Thos.

Dropped for N. P. D.

Andrews, W. P.
Brown, E. R.
Boteler, Jno. W.
Choate, W. C.
Choate, Warren
Dengel, Jno. P.
Dichman, Ernst
Ferguson, R. B.

Gould, C. G.
Herzberg, Chas.
Humer, J. S.
Henderson, G. A.
Hulse, Chas. L.
Johnson, Wm. T.
Kennedy, G. W. E.
Lord, Jno. B.

Moore, S. H.
Moulden, Jno. A.
Nelson, C. C.
Pierce, J. H.
Plant, jr., Geo. H.
Wilcox, E. B.
Wyville, W. D.

WASHINGTON CHAPTER, No. 2.

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

W. H. EARLE, M. E. H. P.

THOS. A. GADDESS, E. S.

E. G. DAVIS, E. K.

ROBT. H. GRAHAM, Treasurer.

A. T. LONGLEY, Secretary.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.

J. MOODY SMITH, P. H. P.

WM. MIDDLETON, P. H. P.

A. T. LONGLEY, P. H. P. and D. G. H. P.

J. O. GOODRICH, P. H. P.

ROSS A. FISH, P. H. P.

GEO. B. CLARK, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Ackerman, M. L.

Allen, Sam'l E.

Ashby, J. R.

Atkins, E. H.

Alexander, C. M.

Anderson, Robert

Baldwin, Edward

Ball, Robert

Bartholow, J. P.

Bassett, George T.

Blout, I. L.

Bogan, Dr. S. W.

Bond, R. V.

Bonell, E.

Boteler, H. D.

Bird, John H.

Burnham, N.

Budlong, J. N.

Bailey, Thos. L.

Boyd, Robert

Baldwin, W. D.

Brown, Wm. L.

Barker, Joseph F.

Baulsir, Edward

Bower, George W.

Braitmayer, J. E.

Bortel, Cornelius

Burnett, D. L.

Burroughs, H. S.

Campbell, Richard

Campbell, T. B.

Campbell, W. J.

Chapman, H. N.

Clark, George B.

Clarke, George H.

Cornelius, Rev. J. W.

Craig, Andrew

Crown, S. T.

Clark, Thomas A.

Chapman, J. J.

Carver, Frank N.

Casilear, George W.

Clarvoe, J. A. W.

Callahan, J. J.

Clagett, Dorsey

Campbell, Charles D.

Cunningham, John S.

Coleman, A. S.

Cooper, Moses

Dawson, John B.

Dyer, Wm. W. S.

Davis, E. G.

Dell, F. C.

Downman, R. W.

Draney, F. M.

Davis, Augustus

Earl, Charles

Earle, W. H.

Elliott, J. J.

Edwards, T. J.

Eastman, Louis

Frederic, John D.

Fish, Ross A.

Fugitt, N. B.

Frazier, B. W.

Garrison, J. R.

Gedney, J. F.

Glover, T.

Goodrich, J. O.

Graham, Robert H.

Green, H. M.

Griffin, E. W. W.

Guild, James

Gardner, Thomas I.

Gradwahl, L.

Gillman, H. M.

Gaddess, Thomas A.

Gorman, A. P.

Hable, S. L.

Hable, H.

Hayes, Charles W.

Hinds, George

Hirsch, Moses

Holmead, J. E. F.

Hudson, James

Hughes, Evan

Hamlin, J. P.

Hartz, W. T.

Hennage, J. H.

Hibbs, Geo. D. C.

Howard, A. M.

Hume, T. L.

Hutton, J. D.

Huck, Emile

Hayward, G. M.

Hartsock, Rev. S. M.

Johnston, Wm. H.

Kaighn, M. M.

Kersey, M.

Lynch, James

Longley, A. T.

Leamy, John

Logan, D. J.

Levy, H.

Lefo, Jacob

Longley, E. King

Lamb, James H.

Lansbrug, James

Landis, Delos E.

Luttrell, Thomas J.

Marks, S. A. H.

McClermont, R.	Riley, Thomas R.	Taylor, A. S.
McElwee, James	Roose, W. S.	Thompson, G. R.
Middleton, Wm.	Riley, H. E.	Thorn, Benj. T.
Meloy, S. H.	Sears, P. B.	Toomb, R.
Morgan, Richard	Schleimer, D.	Trimble, M.
Montgomery, W.	Scudder, Rev. Jos.	Tait, Alexander
McIntosh, D.	Sheriff, George L.	Tilley, Stephen
Montandu, A.	Sherman, Charles	Varela, A. C.
McElroy, John	Skerrett, W. H.	Voute, C. H.
Miller, Charles P.	Smith, Charles B.	Van Fostner, S. F.
Murphy, S. E.	Smith, J. Moody	Wells, G. Wiley
Morgan, Ward	Smith, John M.	Whitefoot, R. M.
Medler, Edward	Stephenson, W. J.	Whyte, Frederick
Nalley, W. H.	Stephenson, A. H.	Williamson, James
Newton, A. S.	Sterling, Wm. J.	Winter, S. K.
Noble, H. B.	Stock, J. G.	Wolfe, A. B.
Orcutt, W. H.	Sullivan, J. J.	Williams, J. Z.
Olcott, R. G.	Shepherd, Wm.	Wright, L. A.
Pearl, Marcus	Sprague, F. H.	Whiting, A. T.
Peterson, August	Seymour, Joseph L.	Walker, W. T.
Pearson, S. P.	Schoyer, Louis	Webster, A. C. H.
Reed, Thomas M.	Sentenne, E. H.	Whitney, Moses M.
Reifsnnyder, J. H.	Scott, J. B.	White, Truman W.
Robertson, J.	Scott, John	Young, George D.
Rowland, Dr. J. S. C.		

Reinstated.

Burnett, D. L.	Murphy, S. E.	Tilley, Stephen
Cunningham, John S.	O'Rear, Wm. A.	Wells, G. Wiley
Gorman, A. P.	Peterson, August	

Withdrawn.

O'Rear, W. A.

Pearson, H. C.

Died.

Cox, Joseph L.	Croggon, R. C., M. D.	Ellis, H. C.
Kramer, L. J.		

Dropped for N. P. D.

Barroll, F. H.	Farren, George	Slater, S. E.
Cushaw, E. L.	Marks, H. S.	Walker, James T.

MOUNT VERNON CHAPTER, No. 3.

Meets on the second and fourth Mondays in each month.

OFFICERS.

CHARLES W. HANCOCK, M. E. H. P.	J. C. ALLEN, E. S.
FRANK G. DANIELS, E. K.	JOHN W. GRIFFIN, Treas'r.
JOHN H. PICKELL, Secretary.	

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

CHARLES W. HANCOCK, P. H. P., P. G. K., P. G. V. and L., and R. E. G. S.	
HENRY A. WHALLON, P. H. P. and P. G. K.	
D. B. SEARLE, P. H. P.	

JOSEPH DANIELS, P. H. P., P. G. K., P. D. G. H. P.,
and M. E. G. H. P.

JOHN W. GRIFFIN, P. H. P.

SAMUEL BAXTER, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Allen, J. C.	Glassie, D. W.	Patten, Charles L.
Alexander, Chas. L.	Gleason, Albert	Partridge, Geo. W.
Anderson, W. S.	Goepel, Paul	Patterson, James
Appel, Chas. A.	Gray, E. H.	Partello, W. P.
Appleton, W. H.	Gregory, H. I.	Payne, James G.
Arctander, Emil	Greene, W. H.	Philp, Franklin
Ashdown, W. W.	Griffin, John W.	Pickell, J. H.
Barrowes, S. M.	Haight, C. R.	Pinney, Geo. M.
Bates, Geo. A.	Hancock, C. W.	Potter, W. W.
Baxter, Samuel	Hay, W. J.	Pratt, Geo. W.
Bliss, H. C.	Hatch, J. H.	Randall, A. F.
Brady, Chas. B.	Helmus, Wm.	Richardson, J. P.
Brown, P. B.	Hart, William	Reilly, W. H.
Brelsford, H. W.	Hesse, John C.	Rowell, Geo. B.
Burns, B. F.	Heywood, Geo. B.	Sanders, L. M.
Berrgdorf, Louis	Holden, C. H.	Saville, J. H.
Clarke, N. B.	Hoover, J. W.	Searle, D. B.
Clark, P. M.	Hughes, W. E.	Searle, H. R.
Clark, E. W., Jr.	Isham, L. D.	Schreiber, Wm.
Chapman, N. O.	James, Chas. H.	Servoss, S. M. B.
Cameron, John	Jansen, J. C.	Seymour, H. B.
Cluss, Adolf	Jaquette, J. G.	Sherwood, H. L.
Cooke, O. W.	Johnson, A. E.	Schriftgiesser, P. L.
Comstock, O. W.	Johnson, S. A.	Simmons, George
Daniels, Joseph	Jones, Pierpont E.	Stevens, C. C.
Daniels, Frank G.	Jones, W. Martin	Stiles, Geo. P.
Daniels, A. M.	Joyce, John A.	Sweet, W. E.
Daniels, R. G.	Kelly, M. Frank	Stuyvesant, G. W.
De Caidry, W. A.	King, John I.	Sylvester, Jos. H.
Dearborn, O. M.	King, Chas. W.	Terry, S. A.
Doyle, J. A.	Kinney, Alanson T.	Tichener, I. S.
Douglass, W. O.	Kimball, L. W.	Thompson, M.
Driggs, Geo. T.	Lacy, Robt. S.	Trask, W. E.
Eldridge, W. W.	Lapham, Alanson	Tyler, W. C.
Ferry, John H.	Larman, John Q.	Wallace, R. B.
Fisher, Frank W.	Lyford, B. F.	Washburne, H. S.
Firman, O. S.	Marshall, F. M.	Walton, W. H.
Flanagan, C. L.	Major, T. Elwood	Webster, W. H.
Fowler, T. T.	McKnight, J. W.	Wellington, John L.
Francis, George W.	McKenna, James	Whallon, Henry A.
Frantz, C. F. L.	Metcalf, F. S.	Wilson, J. C.
Fries, Henry	Michener, John E.	Wilson, L. A.
Fry, W. H.	Montgomery, R. H.	Widerman, L. T.
Garwood, S. N.	Mowbray, A. D.	Wood, Geo. H.
Gawler, Joseph	Murray, B. P.	Yates, Wm. A.
Gilbert, B. F.	Muzzy, A. M.	Yates, James V.
Gilbert, O. H.	Nordstrom, C. E.	
Glasscott, W. H.	Page, Charles	

Reinstated.

Chase, E. W.	Hatch, J. H.	Mowbray, A. D.
Copeland, W. P.	Linman, W. A.	

Withdrawn.

Cate, A. B.	Copeland, W. P.	McCormick, James R.
Chase, E. V.	Davy, James, Jr.	Wallace, George, Jr.
Carrington, S. E.	Linman, W. A.	

Died.

Allen, E. K.	Eichler, William
--------------	------------------

Dropped for N. P. D.

Castle, D. E.	Dole, S. A.	Shepherd, Chas. T.
Dennison, C. W.	Partello, D. J.	Wyman, C. T.

EUREKA CHAPTER No. 4.

Meets on the second and fourth Fridays in each month.

OFFICERS.

PHILIP S. CRAIG, M. E. H. P.	JAMES P. PEARSON, E. S.
EDWIN S. HOLMES, E. K.	WILLIAM H. GOODS, Treasurer.
S. JOHN THOMSON, Secretary.	

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

ANTHONY BUCHLY, P. H. P.
I. L. JOHNSON, P. H. P.
EDWIN B. MACGROTTY, P. H. P. and P. G. S.
CHAUNCEY SMITH, P. H. P. and G. T.

Royal Arch Masons.

Abrams, A.	Brock, W. G.	Draper, A. H.
Aldridge, T.	Brown, O. C.	Ebbinghaus, J. W.
Allman, J.	Bruni, C.	Faunce, C.
Aman, S.	Buchly, A.	Fay, E. L.
Amiss, T. B.	Butt, W. B.	Fearson, C. D.
Anderson, W. A.	Butts, A. B.	Fowler, C. H.
Bacon, A. A.	Campbell, R. G.	Franzoni, C. W.
Barker, W. P.	Campbell, E.	French, W. B.
Bartlett, J. D.	Champlin, T. H.	Gardner, M.
Been, H.	Chase, H.	Gassenheimer, L.
Bell, W. P.	Cox, Wm. E.	Gentner, J. J.
Benjamin, C. F.	Craig, P. S.	Gettinger, B. T.
Benser, G. W.	Cromwell, Z. W.	Gill, S. F.
Bishop, L. C.	Crosby, H. T.	Goods, Wm. H.
Bonitz, H.	Crump, J. E.	Gordon, R. A.
Bordman, E. K.	Curtis, W.	Greer, C. E.
Bourne, T. C.	Davis, J.	Hadaway, C.
Bowen, J. G.	Davis, J. S.	Hahn, J. S.
Boyd, W. H.	Davis, J. C.	Haislip, J. W.
Bradley, H. H.	Dearing, G. T.	Hamill, S. R.
Brenizer, W. H.	Dorman, J. B.	Harmon, C. P.
Brereton, W. H.	Downing, W. B.	Harris, R. L.
Bright, J. G.	Draper, N. C.	Harrison, W. H.

Hayward, J.	Montgomery, J. H.	Smith, C.
Hempstone, S. H.	Morsell, S. T. G.	Smith, F. H.
Hibbs, E. T.	Mueller, G. J.	Smith, P. C.
Hodgman, A. W.	Munson, H. S.	Sonnenschmidt, C. W.
Holmes, E. S.	Myers, W. C.	Spencer, H. C.
Howard, J. W.	Ottman, R. R.	Spengler, T.
Hughes, E.	Patterson, J. F.	St. Clair, F. O.
Humphrey, R. T.	Pearson, J. P.	Stephenson, J. F.
Humphreys, G. W.	Phillips, E.	Stone, W. C.
Hunter, G. M.	Pilson, J. H.	Stone, Wm. F.
Jenks, W. G.	Pinkney, W.	Sutter, B. P.
Johnson, Wm. H.	Poindexter, W. M.	Swaney, C. M.
Johnson, I. L.	Proctor, T.	Taylor, R. H.
Johnson, A. E. H.	Reddington, J. K.	Thompson, O. T.
Johnston, F.	Reeves, jr., J.	Thomson, S. J.
Kaufman, L.	Reynolds, C. W.	Todd, T. H. G.
Kettler, L.	Richmond, G. Q.	Trimble, J. W.
Keyworth, J.	Ridenour, U. H.	Tudor, W. V.
King, G. S.	Riessner, C.	Turton, G. H.
Knotts, J. W.	Ritter, F.	Van Arnum, J. W.
Kromberger W.	Rives, J.	Viven, J. L.
Lee, J. C.	Rives, F.	Voss, H. H.
Lemkul, L.	Sargeant, J. L.	Wall, J. C.
Lewis, S. E.	Schafhirt, J. L.	West, F. E.
Lillebridge, G. H.	Schafhirt, F. H.	Wheeler, E. G.
Lloyd, B. F.	Schley, E. S.	Whitcomb, A. M.
Low, J. E.	Schmidt, E.	Whittlemore, B. F.
MacGrotty, E. B.	Sears, W. L.	Whittlesey, R. H.
Martin, J. E.	Seip, R. C.	Wilson, P. R.
McAuliffe, D.	Shailer, T.	Winnemore, I. J.
McCallum, A. M.	Short, W. A.	Wright, C. H.
McClary, E. S.	Siegel, M.	Young, W. P.
McFarlan, D.	Slater, J.	

Suspended for U. M. C.

Lein, Henry B.

Died.

Yager, John H.

LAFAYETTE CHAPTER No. 5.

Meets on the first and third Saturdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

CHAS. EDW. COON, M. E. H. P. JOHN AUG. DUREN, E. S.
JOSEPH SYLVESTER MCCOY, E. K. F. RUSH GRIFFITH, Treasurer.

JOHN EDWIN MASON, Secretary.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

RIGHT HON. MARQUIS OF RIPON, P. H. P., &c., &c.

RIGHT HON. LORD TENTERDEN, P. H. P., &c.

M. E. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN, P. H. P.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, P. H. P.

15

ALBERT G. MACKAY, M. D., P. H. P. and P. G. G. H. P. of United States.

ALBERT PIKE, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.

NORTON P. CHIPMAN, P. H. P.

NOBLE D. LARNER, P. H. P., P. G. Sec., and D. G. H. P.

DANIEL SPAULDING JONES, P. H. P. and P. G. Scribe.

Royal Arch Masons.

Adams, Jas. L., M. D.	Duvall, Lameech	Palmer, Benjamin F.
Arnold, Jay H.	Eaton, Walter S.	Parks, Calvin M.
Arnold, Walter J.	Fiske, Eugene A.	Parks, Rev. James H.
Barr, W. L.	Fitch, Geo. A., M. D.	Patterson, John B.
Baar, Lewis	Fitzki, Edward	Patterson, D. W. C., M. D.
Barr, Henry D.	French, Benjamin F.	Perkins, Edward A.
Barns, James J.	Fuller, Edward H.	Perley, James P.
Baker, Henry M.	Fox, Albert F.	Philipp, Moritz B.
Barry, William M.	Gage, Norris L.	Pierce, Daniel T.
Balloch, George W.	Gambis, George	Powers, William G.
Bates, Stephen	Gassaway, James M.	Ray, Herbert H.
Beam, Henry D.	Gillham, Robert	Riggles, John H.
Bender, Joseph T.	Gilmore, Charles D.	Robertson, Samuel P.
Bentley, Alexander J	Glenn, John W.	Ross, Burton R.
Betz, Louis	Gordon, Charles G.	Rutherford, Allan
Blue, David Smalley	Griffith, Fleming R.	Rosekrans, Isaac A.
Bishop, Henry H.	Grinnell, James S.	Sargent, Hosea Q.
Booream, Edgar I.	Greer, John R.	Schutter, Hubert
Boydin, George	Hale, Edward W.	Sharman, Rev. William
Bond, Samuel R.	Harrison, Luther	Shaw, Josiah
Boyle, Augustus F., jr.	Hart, Amos W.	Shepherd, Thomas M.
Brandebury, Lem. A.	Heller, Simon	Sickles, William
Brewster, Henry A.	Howell, M. E. N.	Simms, John W.
Brecht, Theodore C.	Howard, G. M., M. D.	Singleton, William R.
Bridgman, George W.	Irwin, Walter R.	Smith, Andrew C.
Bridges, Edwin T.	Jones, Daniel S.	Smith, J. Dempster
Brown, And. R., M. D.	Kant, Christian E.	Smith, Percy G.
Browne, William H.	Knox, John J.	Sniffen, Culver C.
Bunker, George W.	Larner, Noble D.	Spear, Charles W.
Burnham, D. Stark	LeMoore, Ernest H.	Springer, Horace P.
Burt, Ellery J.	Libbey, Israel P.	Squires, Frank D.
Chapman, Charles W.	Linnville, George W.	Stailey, John H.
Chandler, M. Ten Eyck	Madge, Oscar D.	Stanton, Irving W.
Chase, Charles W.	Martin, Luther	Steele, Thomas J.
Cheney, J. E., M. D.	Mason, James M.	Stewart, John A.
Chipman, Norton P.	Mason, J. E., M. D.	Stiles, Valentine N.
Clements, John T.	McConnell, J. C., M. D.	Stockbridge, Virgil D.
Coon, Charles E.	McCoy, Joseph S.	Stoek, Jacob F.
Colledge, C. B. R.	McKeever, Samuel	Strachan, Samuel S.
Cox, C. C., M. D. & LL.D.	McLean, Harry C.	Strattan, John T.
Cramer, Joseph B.	Minnick, William H.	Stevens, Edgar
Creecy, C. Eaton	Morgan, Francis H.	Thomason, Samuel E.
Davis, David O.	Moulton, Charles H.	Thompson, John B.
Dickinson, George T.	Moore, William G.	Tileston, William M.
Dixon, John H.	Murdock, Charles M.	Tompkins, Robert B.
Duncan, Samuel A.	Morgan, Charles W.	Towles, Henry O.
Duren, John A.	Owen, F. W., M. D.	Townsend, S., M. D.

Transue, A., M. D.	Welcker, Peter D.	Witherow, James M.
Upton, J. Kendrick	Weirick, Jesse H.	Wolf, Simon
VanDerlip, William L.	Wheeler, Henry W.	Woodbury, Levi
Vandenburg, J. V. W.	Whitney, William H.	Wright, John H.
Voght, John L.	Wilkins, Charles A.	Wright, William
Wannall, Charles P.	Will, Henry	Young, Nicholas E.
Warren, Charles, M. D.	Will, Joseph B.	Young, W. L. D.
Waugh, James E.	Wilson, Frank	

Disd.

Sinsabaugh, David

Rider, William L.

WASHINGTON NAVAL CHAPTER No. 6.

Meets on the first and third Tuesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

ANDREW WOODS, M. E. H. P.	DAVID W. MARTON, E. S.
GEO. W. WELLS, E. K.	THOMAS SOMERVILLE, Treasurer.
JOSEPH F. BANER, Secretary.	

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

ANDREW GLASS, P. H. P. and P. G. K.
JAMES E. PORTER, P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Browning, H.	Gaddis, William	Nachman, David
Brown, John	Gaddis, George H.	O'Conner, Robert
Baner, Joseph F.	Glass, Andrew	Porter, James E.
Boteler, E. M.	Goodall, George W.	Steel, John M.
Cowan, W. L.	Graham, John	Somerville, Thomas
Cooper, W. A.	Goddard, William W.	Skidmore, George W.
Chase, I. McKim	Gaddis, Adam	Stewart, Thomas
Cross, T. B., jr.	Hogan, John C.	St. John, W. H. H.
Collins, W. H.	Hocke, William H.	Schultz, John
Coomes, J. W.	Holroyd, John	Schultz, George
Cross, J. W.	Herrell, John E.	Thompson, Thomas
Custis, L. W.	Hartley, Joseph H.	Vermillion, James
Downs, John A.	Lomax, James C.	Williams, Edward
DeMoll, Otto	Henderson, W. A.	Wilkerson, William
Davis, John B.	Kaufman, Marx	Walter, William
Dausch, John B.	Marton, D. W.	Woods, Andrew
Foster, Robert F.	McFarlane, Andrew	Wells, George W.
Ferguson, John B.	McCathran, Donald	Wells, Joseph M.
		Wilson, Rev. Joseph P.

Withdrawn.

Hancock, Andrew.

POTOMAC CHAPTER No. 8.

Meets at Masonic Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

ALLEN WALL, M. E. H. P.	RICHARD L. CROPLEY, Treasurer.
BENJAMIN S. HEDRICK, E. K.	C. FRANK SHEKELL, Secretary.
GEORGE E. CORSON, E. S.	R. R. SHEKELL, Janitor.

Past High Priests and Past Grand Officers.

JAMES GOSZLER, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.
 JAMES G. SMITH, P. H. P. and P. G. H. P.
 W. MORRIS SMITH, P. H. P., P. G. Scribe, P. G. S.
 P. D. G. H. P.
 WILLIAM H. FAULKNER, P. H. P. and P. G. Scribe.
 ROBERT W. HARDY, P. G. Scribe and P. H. P.

Royal Arch Masons.

Alvord, Dr. H. J.	Hartley, Edwin D.	Plater, Mayhew
Beall, John J.	Hood, John H.	Parkinson, Clinton
Ball, Jas. H.	Hedrick, Benj. S.	Parkhurst, Isaac L.
Birch, Joseph F.	Hardy, Rob't W.	Rhinehart, George
Corson, George E.	Heiston, Jacob C.	Robinson, Jno. D.
Choppon, William	Helm, Rev. Joseph	Rhor, Henry
Cropley, Richard L.	Hoffman, James A.	Rodgers, Jno. E.
Cox, James P.	Johnson, Daniel	Shekell, Rich'd R.
Campbell, R. T.	Johnson, Thomas	Shekell, C. Frank
Dreyfuss, David	Jones, A. Jackson	Shekell, Dr. A. B.
Dodge, A. Hamilton	Jones, Fred. W.	Sterne, Wm. H.
Dowling, Thomas	King, George W.	Shaw, John T.
Dickson, Henry	Kaiser, John	Strauss, Henry
Dickson, James	Laird, jr., William	Shinn, Riley A.
Denty, Capt. Jos. W.	Laurence, Dewitt C.	Storch, Fritz W.
Edmonston, R. A.	Lumsdon, John W.	Sweeney, Henry M.
Essex, Francis V.	Ludgate, William	Seligson, Herman
Faulkner, Wm. H.	Lynch, John	Smith, James G.
Frey, Robert E.	Magruder, Dr. H.	Smith, W. Morris
Franck, Robert	Martin, Daniel W.	Shinn, Dr. Vincent
Fisher, Dr. Geo. W.	Myers, Chas. C.	Taylor, Walter H. S.
Goszler, James	Owens, John L.	Turton, John B.
Graves, John S.	Orme, William B.	Thomas, jr., Lorenzo
Grimes, Benj. F.	Parker, John C.	Waters, George
Gross, Henry A.	Phillips, John H.	Wheatley, Walter T.
Gordon, J. Holdsworth	Prather, Albert C.	Wall, Allen
Griebel, George H.	Pickrell, Adolphus H.	Wheeler, William W.
Gibbs, Dr. James B.	Palmer, Samuel C.	Williams, Dr. Bodisco

Died.

Stackpole, Capt. Thomas

King, James

Dropped N. P. D.

Blundon, Joseph A.

Davidson, John B.
Lawrence, James V.

Lambright, George C.

LIST OF GRAND CHAPTERS in correspondence with the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, with the name and address of their Grand Secretaries.

GRAND CHAPTER OF—	GRAND SECRETARIES.	ADDRESS.
Alabama.....	Daniel Sayre.....	Montgomery.
Arkansas.....	L. E. Barber.....	Little Rock.
California.....	Charles L. Wiggin.....	San Francisco.
Canada.....	T. Bird Harris.....	Hamilton.
Connecticut.....	J. H. Wheeler.....	Hartford.
Delaware.....	J. P. Allmond.....	Wilmington.
England and Wales.....	John Hervey.....	London.
Florida.....	W. M. McIntosh.....	Tallahassee.
Georgia.....	J. E. Blackshear.....	Macon.
Illinois.....	J. H. Miles.....	Chicago.
Indiana.....	J. M. Bramwell.....	Indianapolis.
Iowa.....	W. B. Langridge.....	Muscataine.
Kansas.....	E. T. Carr.....	Leavenworth.
Kentucky.....	.....	Frankfort.
Louisiana.....	J. C. Batchelor.....	New Orleans.
Maine.....	Ira Berry.....	Portland.
Maryland.....	W. A. Wentz.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts.....	Z. H. Thomas, jr.....	Boston.
Michigan.....	J. Eastman Johnson.....	Centreville.
Minnesota.....	W. S. Combs.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi.....	J. L. Power.....	Jackson.
Missouri.....	G. F. Gouley.....	St. Louis.
Nebraska.....	R. W. Furnas.....	Brownville.
New Hampshire.....	Abel Hutchins.....	Concord.
New Jersey.....	J. Wolverton, M. D.....	Trenton.
New York.....	C. G. Fox.....	Buffalo.
North Carolina.....	T. B. Carr.....	Wilmington.
Nova Scotia.....	James Gossip.....	Halifax.
Ohio.....	James Nesbit.....	Troy.
Oregon.....	R. P. Earhart.....	Salem.
Pennsylvania.....	John Thomson.....	Philadelphia.
Rhode Island.....	George H. Burnham.....	Providence.
Scotland.....	L. Mackersy.....	Edinburgh.
South Carolina.....	A. T. Smythe.....	Charleston.
Tennessee.....	J. Frizzell.....	Nashville.
Texas.....	R. Brewster.....	Houston.
Vermont.....	W. H. S. Whitcomb.....	Burlington.
Virginia.....	Dr. John Dove.....	Richmond.
West Virginia.....	O. S. Long.....	Wheeling.
Wisconsin.....	William T. Palmer.....	Milwaukee.

Address of M.: E.: GRAND HIGH PRIEST:

ABNER T. LONGLEY,

Offices, Masonic Temple and Agricultural Dep't.

Residence, 806 A street N. E.

Address of R.: E.: GRAND SECRETARY:

L. G. STEPHENS,

Office, Masonic Temple;

Residence, No. 1421 5th street N. W.

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FDC
1867'

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand R.:A.:Chapter

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

FOR THE YEAR 1867,

TOGETHER WITH THE

Proceedings of the Preliminary Convention for the
Formation of the Grand Chapter of the
District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
GIBSON BROTHERS, PRINTERS.
1867.

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PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1867.

The first convocation of the Grand R. . A. . Chapter of the District of Columbia was held on Thursday evening, the 23d inst., at Central Masonic Hall, in the City of Washington, at 11 o'clock, immediately after the constitution of the same, and the installation of the Grand Officers, at Wall's Opera House.

PRESENT :

M. . E. . Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	- - -	G. . H. . Priest.
R. . E. . Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	- - -	D. . G. . H. . Priest.
" "	C. W. HANCOCK,	- - -	G. . King.
" "	C. SMITH,	- - -	G. . Treasurer.
" "	N. D. LARNER,	- - -	G. . Secretary.
" "	W. MIDDLETON,	- - -	G. . C. . of the Host.
" "	J. LOCKIE,	- - -	G. . Prin. Sojourner.
" "	G. BOYDEN,	- - -	G. . R. . A. . Captain, p. t.
" "	E. B. MacGROTTY,	- - -	G. . M. . 3d Vail.
" "	H. A. WHALLON,	- - -	G. . M. . 2d Vail.
" "	J. DANIELS,	- - -	G. . M. . 1st Vail.
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	- - -	G. . Janitor.

And the following representatives :

Of Columbia Chapter, No. 15—L. G. Stephens, H. . P. ., and J. Lockie, K. .
Of Washington Chapter, No. 16—W. Middleton, H. . P. ., and G. Boyden, S. .
Of Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20—C. W. Hancock, H. . P. .; H. A. Whallon, K. ., and D. B. Searle, S. .

All the Chapters, except No. 8, being represented, the Grand Chapter was opened in AMPLE form.

On motion of Comp. Lockie, the G. . Secretary was directed to have one thousand copies of the inaugural address of the G. . H. . P. . printed, and transmit two copies of the same to each of the Grand Chapters in the United States.

On motion of Comp. Middleton, the G. . Secretary was directed to request Comp. A. G. Mackey to furnish the Grand Chapter with a copy of the address delivered by him on the occasion of the installation of the Grand Officers, for publication with the proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

On motion of Comp. Lockie, the Grand Secretary was directed to officially inform the R. A. Chapters in the jurisdiction, that the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia had been duly organized.

The M. E. G. H. Priest gave notice that Comp. Mackey would be present to-morrow (Friday) evening, the 24th inst., for the purpose of exemplifying the work in the several degrees, as approved by the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow (Friday) evening, at 7½ o'clock.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, May 24, 1867.

A Resumed Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, on Friday, May 24, at 7½ o'clock P. M.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	G. H. Priest.
R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	D. G. H. Priest.
"	" C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	G. King.
"	" N. P. CHIPMAN,	-	-	G. Scribe, p. t.
"	" C. SMITH,	-	-	G. Treasurer.
"	" N. D. LARNER,	-	-	G. Secretary.
"	" C. H. HALL,	-	-	Rev. G. Chaplain.
"	" W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	G. C. Host.
"	" J. LOCKIE,	-	-	G. P. Sojourner.
"	" J. B. WILL,	-	-	G. R. A. Capt.
"	" E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	G. M. 3d Vail.
"	" H. A. WHALLON,	-	-	G. M. 2d Vail.
"	" J. O. GOODRICH,	-	-	G. M. 1st Vail, p. t.
Comp. L.	STODDARD,	-	-	G. Janitor.

And the following Representatives :

Of Columbia Chapter, No. 15—Comp. L. G. Stephens, H. P.; J. Lockie, K.

Of Washington Chapter, No. 16—Comp. W. Middleton, H. P.; Geo. Boyden, S.

Of Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20—Comp. C. W. Hancock, H. P.; H. A. Whallon, K.; D. B. Searle, S.

All the Chapters, except Potomac Chapter, No. 8, being represented, the Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

The minutes of the preceding Convocation were read and approved.

Petitions, from the constitutional number of Companions, were presented, praying that Charters be issued empowering them to open and hold regular Chapters at Central Masonic Hall, in the city of Washington. One to be called Eureka Chapter, with Comp. C. Smith as M. . E. . H. . P. ., Comp. A. Buchly, King, and Comp. E. B. MacGrotty, Scribe. The other to be called La Fayette Chapter, with Comp. N. D. Larnier as M. . E. . H. . P. ., Comp. N. P. Chipman, King, and Comp. J. B. Will, Scribe; which, on motion of Comp. Lockie, were referred to a Committee consisting of Comp. Lockie, Middleton, and Hancock.

Comp. Grand Secretary offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall be permitted, under the Charters to be issued to them, to confer the Council Degrees therein, and that said degrees shall not, in any manner, be connected with the Chapters.

Which, after a full discussion, in which M. . E. . Comp. Mackey, at the invitation of the M. . E. . G. . H. . P. . participated, was adopted.

On motion of Comp. Middleton, a Committee, consisting of Comp. Middleton, L. G. Stephens, and E. L. Stevens, was appointed to report a plan for the conferring of the order of Priesthood.

On motion of the G. . Secretary, charters were ordered to be issued to Potomac, Columbia, Washington, and Mt. Vernon Chapters.

The Grand Secretary presented, from Comp. J. G. Bruff, a design for a seal for the G. . Chapter; which, on motion of Comp. Middleton, was referred to a Committee consisting of Comp. Searle, Lockie, and Larnier, who, subsequently, reported and recommended the adoption of the design, with the addition of the Triple Tau; which was agreed to, and the G. . Secretary directed to procure a seal of the design adopted for the use of the Grand Chapter.

On motion of Comp. Searle, the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, as adopted by the Convention, was referred to Comp. Searle, Lockie, and Larnier, for revision, with instructions to report at the next Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

M. . E. . Comp. A. G. Mackey was then introduced to the Grand Chapter, and exemplified the R. . A. . Degree, as the same had been adopted by the Committee of the G. . G. . C. . of the United States, in a very clear and forcible manner.

On motion of Comp. Middleton, a committee, consisting of Comp. Middleton, L. G. Stephens, Hancock, C. Smith, and Larnier, was appointed to confer with Comp. Mackey as to the proper manner of conferring the degrees in the chapter.

The M. . E. . G. . H. . Priest presented to the G. . C. ., on behalf of Comp. Geo. C. Whiting and W. H. Nalley, a very handsomely-bound volume of the proceedings of the G. . C. . of Maryland and the District of Columbia, from the year 1815 to 1846, the same being as complete a set of the proceedings as can be made from the records in existence.

On motion of Comp. Whallon, the thanks of the Grand Chapter was returned to the Companions for their valuable gift, and the G. . Secretary was directed to inform the Companions of the same.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment until Saturday evening, the 25th instant, at 8 o'clock P. M.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, *May 25, 1867.*

A Resumed Convocation of the Grand R. . A. . Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, on Saturday evening, May 25, at 8 o'clock.

PRESENT :

M. . E. . Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	-	<i>G. . H. . Priest.</i>
R. . E. . Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	<i>D. . G. . H. . Priest.</i>
"	C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	<i>G. . King.</i>
"	J. H. RUSSELL,	-	-	-	<i>G. . Scribe, p. t.</i>
"	C. SMITH,	-	-	-	<i>G. . Treasurer.</i>
"	N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	<i>G. . Secretary.</i>
"	W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	-	<i>G. . C. . Host,</i>
"	J. LOCKIE,	-	-	-	<i>G. . P. . Sojourner,</i>
"	J. R. GARRISON,	-	-	-	<i>G. . R. . A. . Capt. p. t.</i>
"	E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	<i>G. . M. . 3d Vail.</i>
"	S. BAXTER,	-	-	-	<i>G. . M. . 2d Vail, p. t.</i>
"	C. E. NORDSTROM,	-	-	-	<i>G. . M. . 1st Vail, p. t.</i>
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	<i>G. . Janitor.</i>

And the following representatives :

*Of Columbia Chapter, No. 15—*L. G. Stephens, H. . P. . ; J. Lockie, K. .
*Of Washington Chapter, No. 16—*W. Middleton, H. . P. . ; G. Boyden, S. .
*Of Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20—*C. W. Hancock, H. . P. .

All the Chapters, except Potomac Chapter, No. 8, being represented, the Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

The minutes of preceding convocation were read and approved.

Comp. Lockie, from the committee to whom had been referred the applications for charters to open Chapters, to be called Eureka and Lafayette, reported the same back, and recommended that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, when, on motion, it was unanimously ordered that charters be granted as prayed for.

Comp. Middleton, from the Committee on Work, reported that progress had been made, and recommended that the committee be continued, with power to alter the work of the jurisdiction in such parts as the action of the G. . Chapter, in separating the Council degrees from the Chapter, required, until such time as the Grand Chapter should adopt a uniform work for the jurisdiction; which was agreed to.

Comp. Lockie, from the committee to whom had been referred the Constitution of the Grand Chapter for revision, reported the same back, without amendment, and moved that the Grand Chapter proceed to the consideration of the same, section by section, which was agreed to.

The Constitution was then read, and after several amendments had been made to the same, it was adopted.

On motion of Comp. Middleton, the rules of order were referred to the Committee on the Constitution.

On motion, the G. . Secretary was directed to notify Comp. Barrett, of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, that a resumed convocation of the G. . Chapter will be held on Monday evening, the 27th inst., when he would be expected to be present, and be installed as Grand Scribe; also, to inform him as to the position of Potomac Chapter at this time.

On motion of Comp. Middleton, the G. . Secretary was directed to have five hundred copies of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter printed.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment, until Monday evening, the 27th inst., at 8½ o'clock.

N. D. LARNER,

Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, May 27, 1867.

A Resumed Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, on Monday evening, May 27. at 8½ o'clock.

PRESENT :

R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	G. H. Priest, p. t.
"	"	C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	G. King.
"	"	J. M. SMITH,	-	-	G. Scribe, p. t.
"	"	C. SMITH,	-	-	G. Treasurer.
"	"	N. D. LARNER,	-	-	G. Secretary.
"	"	W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	G. C. Host.
"	"	J. LOCKIE,	-	-	G. P. Sojourner.
"	"	J. W. GRIFFIN,	-	-	G. R. A. Captain, p. t.
"	"	E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	G. M. 3d Vail.
"	"	H. A. WHALLON,	-	-	G. M. 2d Vail.
"	"	W. H. ORCUTT,	-	-	G. M. 1st Vail, p. t.
Comp. L.	STODDARD,	-	-	-	G. Janitor,

And representatives from Columbia, Washington, and Mount Vernon Chapters.

All the Chapters, excepting Potomac, being represented, the Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

The proceedings of preceding Convocation were read and approved.

The Grand Secretary stated that he had, in compliance with the directions of the Grand Chapter, notified Comp. Barrett that the Grand Chapter would meet this evening, and requested him to be present to be installed as Grand Scribe, but that no reply had been received from him.

On motion of Comp. Whallon, the office of Grand Scribe was declared vacant, and the Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of a Grand Scribe, which resulted in the election of Comp. Wm. Middleton.

The office of G. Capt. of the Host being vacant by the election of Comp. Middleton as Grand Scribe, the Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Capt. of the Host, which resulted in the election of Comp. John Lockie.

Comp. Middleton and Lockie were then installed by M. E. Comp. A. G. Mackey.

Comp. Middleton, from the Committee appointed to consider the sub-

ject of the "Order of Priesthood," made the following report, which was adopted :

The Committee, to whom was referred the subject of the "Order of Priesthood," would respectfully report that they deem it expedient that measures should be taken at once to form a "Council of High Priests," and that such Council, when formed, should be subordinate to this Grand Chapter. They therefore submit the following resolutions :

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter authorize and empower the High Priests and Past High Priests of Chapters under its jurisdiction, or a sufficient number of them, after due notice given by the Grand Secretary, to assemble and organize a Council of High Priests, to be subordinate to this Grand Chapter, and to report its doings thereto annually, to be printed with the proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

Resolved, That an Annual Convocation of the Council shall be held on the Tuesday following the second Monday in November, at 4 o'clock P. M.

Resolved, That such Council shall have power to confer the order of Priesthood upon all who shall present their credentials of election by any regularly constituted Chapter.

Resolved, That they shall have power to elect or reject any applicant for the Order so qualified by a two-thirds vote of the members present, and not otherwise.

Resolved, That the President of such Council shall be elected annually, by a majority of the members present, on the Tuesday following the second Monday in November, at 4 o'clock P. M.; failing which, or in case of death or disability of the President, the Grand High Priest shall be, *ex officio*, President of the Council.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter shall be, *ex officio*, Secretary of the Council, provided he is a High Priest or Past High Priest, and has received the order of Priesthood.

Resolved, That the Council so organized may be convened at any time by the Grand Secretary, whose duty it shall be to convene it by order of the President, G. . H. . Priest, or any three present or Past High Priests, for business specified.

Resolved, That the Council convened under the first of these resolutions be empowered to make by-laws for their government, not inconsistent with these resolutions.

WM. MIDDLETON.

L. G. STEPHENS.

E. L. STEVENS.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was directed to issue Charters, designating Columbia Chapter as No. 1, Washington Chapter as No. 2, Mt. Vernon Chapter as No. 3, Eureka Chapter as No. 4, and La Fayette Chapter as No. 5.

On motion of the Grand Secretary, the vote by which the report of the Committee on the Order of Priesthood was agreed to, was reconsidered, and the report postponed for consideration at some future Convocation.

M. E. Comp. A. G. Mackey, then, upon invitation of the Grand Chapter, exemplified the work of the Mark degree as adopted by the Committee of the G. G. Chapter.

On motion of Comp. MacGrotty, the thanks of the Grand Chapter were extended to Comp. Mackey for the able and forcible manner in which he had exemplified the work of the Mark degree.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment during the will and pleasure of the Grand Council.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCAION.

WASHINGTON, June 1, 1867.

A Resumed Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall at 7½ o'clock.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp. J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	-	G. H. Priest.
R. E. Comp. L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	D. G. H. Priest.
" C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	G. K.
" H. N. CHIPMAN,	-	-	-	G. S., p. t.
" N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	G. Secretary
" W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	-	G. C. Host, p. t.
" J. DANIELS,	-	-	-	G. P. Sojourner.
" J. B. WILL,	-	-	-	G. R. A. Capt.
" E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	G. M. 3d Vail.
" D. L. BURNETT,	-	-	-	G. M. 2d Vail, p. t.
" W. H. ORCUTT,	-	-	-	G. M. 1st Vail, p. t.
Comp. L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	G. Janitor,

And representatives from Nos. 1, 2, and 3. All the Chapters being represented, the Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

The M. E. G. High Priest announced that he had appointed Comp. J. Daniels as G. Principal Sojourner, and Comp. W. H. Orcutt as Grand Master of the 1st Vail, and they were duly installed by the M. E. G. H. Priest.

The Grand Chapter, being informed that Eureka Chapter was ready to receive them, was then formed in procession and repaired to the Hall of said Chapter, installed the officers and instituted them into a regular Chapter, No. 4, on the record. The Grand Chapter then retired, and on being informed that Lafayette Chapter was ready to receive them,

proceeded to their Hall, installed their officers, and instituted them into a regular Chapter, No. 5, on the record of the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment until Monday evening, June 3, at 8 o'clock.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, June 3, 1867.

A resumed convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall on Monday evening, at 8 o'clock.

PRESENT :

R. E. Comp. L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	<i>G. H. Priest, p. t.</i>
" C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	<i>G. King.</i>
" H. O. NOYES,	-	-	-	<i>G. Scribe, p. t.</i>
" N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	<i>G. Secretary.</i>
" J. LOCKIE,	-	-	-	<i>G. C. of Host.</i>
" J. DANIELS,	-	-	-	<i>G. P. Sojourner.</i>
" E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	<i>G. R. A. Capt. p. t.</i>
" G. MORGAN,	-	-	-	<i>G. M. 3d Vail, p. t.</i>
" J. M. SMITH,	-	-	-	<i>G. M. 2d Vail, p. t.</i>
" W. H. ORCUTT,	-	-	-	<i>G. M. 1st Vail.</i>
Comp. L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	<i>G. Janitor.</i>

And representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. All the Chapters being represented, the Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

Without transacting any business the Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until Wednesday evening, June 12, at 8 o'clock.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, June 12, 1867.

A Resumed Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall on Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	-	G. H. Priest.
R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	D. G. H. Priest.
" "	C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	G. King.
" "	W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	-	G. Scribe.
" "	C. SMITH,	-	-	-	G. Treasurer.
" "	N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	G. Secretary.
" "	E. B. MACGROTTY,	-	-	-	G. C. Host, p. t.
" "	C. A. SEARS,	-	-	-	G. P. Sojourner, p. t.
" "	W. J. CAMPBELL,	-	-	-	G. R. A. Capt. p. t.
" "	G. H. CLARK,	-	-	-	G. M. 3d Vail, p. t.
" "	D. E. CASTLE,	-	-	-	G. M. 2d Vail, p. t.
" "	H. O. NOYES,	-	-	-	G. M. 1st Vail, p. t.
Comp. L.	STODDARD,	-	-	-	G. Junior.

And the following Representatives :

Of No. 1—L. G. Stephens, H. P., and J. Lockie, K.

Of No. 2—W. Middleton, H. P.

Of No. 3—C. W. Hancock, H. P.

Of No. 4—C. Smith, H. P., and E. B. MacGrotty, S.

Of No. 5—N. D. Larner, H. P.

All the Chapters being represented, the Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

The proceedings of convocations held May 27, June 1, and June 3, 1867, were read and approved.

On motion of the Grand Secretary, a committee, consisting of Comp. Holmead, Larner and Lockie, was appointed to prepare a circular to the various Grand Chapters, notifying them of the formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and requesting that recognition usually given by one Grand Chapter to the other.

A bill from Comp. H. O. Hood, for seal for the Grand Chapter, amounting to twenty-five dollars, was presented and ordered to be paid.

The committee appointed to prepare Rules of Order for the Grand Chapter, reported a set of Rules, which, after being amended, were adopted, and ordered to be printed with the Constitution.

Comp. MacGrotty offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was laid over until the next convocation of the Grand Chapter :

Resolved, That no Chapter of R. A. Masons can legally assemble within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, under a dispensation, charter or any other instrument of writing emanating from any Masonic power other than this Grand Chapter, and all Masonic communication as R. A. Masons is strictly forbidden between any Chapters within this jurisdiction, and such illegal Chapter, and any member or members thereof, under the penalty of expulsion.

No further business appearing, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, June 14, 1867.

The Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met in Special Convocation, at the call of the M. E. G. High Priest, at Central Masonic Hall, on Friday evening, at 8½ o'clock.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	- - -	G. H. P.
R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	- - -	D. G. H. P.
" "	C. W. HANCOCK,	- - -	G. K.
" "	W. MIDDLETON,	- - -	G. S.
" "	N. D. LARNER,	- - -	G. Secretary.
" "	J. LOCKIE,	- - -	G. C. H.
" "	S. BAXTER,	- - -	G. P. S., p. t.
" "	W. J. CAMPBELL,	- - -	G. R. A. C., p. t.
" "	E. B. MacGROTTY,	- - -	G. M. 3d Vail.
" "	J. W. BROWNING,	- - -	G. M. 2d Vail, p. t.
" "	C. E. NORDSTROM,	- - -	G. M. 1st Vail, p. t.
Comp. L.	STODDARD,	- - -	G. Janitor,

And Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

Minutes of preceding convocation were read and approved.

The G. H. Priest stated that he had called the Grand Chapter together to take into consideration the action of Potomac Chapter in persisting to work in disregard of the authority of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, whereupon, on motion of the Grand Secretary, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, and copies of the same ordered to be sent to the various Chapters in the District :

WHEREAS, Potomac Chapter, No. 8, located in Georgetown, D. C., within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, persists in holding

meetings and transacting business as R. A. Masons, under a charter emanating from the late Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and in violation of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia; therefore be it—

Resolved, That said Potomac Chapter be, and the same is hereby, declared irregular and clandestine, and all Masonic intercourse, as R. A. Masons, with said Chapter, or the members thereof, is hereby prohibited by any Chapters or members of Chapters within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, under penalty of expulsion.

The committee appointed to prepare a circular to be sent to the various Grand Chapters in the United States in relation to the organization of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and request recognition by them, reported draft of circular, which was approved, and the Grand Secretary directed to transmit copies to the various Grand Chapters.

Comp. MacGrotty withdrew the resolution offered by him at the preceding convocation, in relation to the power of the Grand Chapter, the same being provided for in the Constitution.

Comp. MacGrotty offered the following preamble and resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, It is believed that the present position of hostility assumed by Potomac Chapter of Georgetown towards the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia does not only receive the sanction, but is mainly attributable to the advice and influence of Most Excellent Companion James G. Smith, Past Grand High Priest of the late Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and now a member of this Grand Chapter, also of Columbia Chapter, No. 1, of this jurisdiction; therefore—

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Companion James G. Smith be, and he is hereby, summoned to appear before this Grand Chapter on the evening of Wednesday, the 19th of June, 1867, at 8 o'clock, to show cause why he should not be disciplined for irregular and unmasonic conduct, in aiding and abetting Potomac Chapter in its present position of antagonism, of open and defiant hostility to the legal authority of this Grand Chapter, said Potomac Chapter being a natural constituent thereof.

Comp. Middleton, from the committee appointed to revise the work of the jurisdiction, reported progress, and asked for further time, which was granted.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment, until Wednesday, June 19, at 7 o'clock P. M.

NOBLE D. LARNER,

Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, June 19, 1867.

The Grand Chapter met at 7 o'clock, and resumed labor.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	-	G. H. P.
R. E. Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	D. G. H. P.
" "	C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	G. K.
" "	W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	-	G. S.
" "	N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	G. Secretary.
" "	J. LOCKIE,	-	-	-	G. C. H.
" "	J. DANIELS,	-	-	-	G. P. Souj.
" "	W. J. CAMPBELL,	-	-	-	G. R. A., p. t.
" "	E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	G. M. 3d Vail.
" "	J. H. RUSSELL,	-	-	-	G. M. 2d Vail, p. t.
" "	W. H. ORCUTT,	-	-	-	G. M. 1st Vail.
Comp. L.	STODDARD,	-	-	-	Grand Janitor,

And Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The minutes of preceding Convocation were read and approved.

The Grand Secretary reported that he had, in accordance with the directions of the Grand Chapter, duly summoned Most Excellent Companion James G. Smith to be present at this meeting, and show cause why he should not be disciplined for unmasonic conduct. The Grand Chapter having waited until 9 o'clock, and Comp. Smith not making his appearance to answer the summons served upon him, Comp. MacGrotty offered the following preamble and resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

"Whereas M. E. Com., P. G. High Priest, Jas. G. Smith, was duly summoned to appear before the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, to show cause why he should not be disciplined for irregular and unmasonic conduct ; and whereas the said J. G. Smith has treated this Grand Chapter with contempt by not appearing to answer as directed in said summons : therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the said M. E. Comp., P. G. H. Priest, Jas. G. Smith, be, and is hereby, indefinitely suspended from all the rights and privileges of R. A. Masonry."

On motion, the sum of \$20 was appropriated to pay Comp. MacGrotty for preparing the Charters for the several Chapters.

The Grand Chapter was then closed in ample form.

N. D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL CONVOCAATION.

WASHINGTON, October 5, 1867.

The Grand R. . . A. . . Chapter of the District of Columbia assembled in Special Convocation on the call of the M. . . E. . . G. . . High Priest at Central Masonic Hall, at 7 o'clock P. M.

PRESENT :

M. . . E. . . Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. . . E. . . Comp.	L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	<i>D. . . G. . . High Priest.</i>
" "	A. BUCHLY,	-	-	<i>Grand King, p. t.</i>
" "	W. MIDDLETON,	-	-	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	C. SMITH,	-	-	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
" "	N. D. LARNER,	-	-	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" "	J. LOCKIE,	-	-	<i>G. . . Captain of the Host.</i>
" "	J. DANIELS,	-	-	<i>G. . . Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	J. B. WILL,	-	-	<i>G. . . R. . . A. . . Captain.</i>
" "	E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	<i>G. . . M. . . 3d Vail.</i>
" "	W. R. SINGLETON,	-	-	<i>G. . . M. . . 2d Vail, p. t.</i>
" "	N. P. CHIPMAN,	-	-	<i>G. . . M. . . 1st Vail, p. t.</i>
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	-	-	<i>Janitor.</i>

And Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 5.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

The M. . . E. . . Grand High Priest stated that he had assembled the Grand Chapter for the purpose of submitting to them the propriety of the Grand Chapter having prepared a statement of all the facts relating to its formation, to be sent to the various G. . . Chapters in the United States for their information; when, on motion of Comp. Chipman, a Committee, consisting of Companions Daniels, Chipman, and Larner, was appointed to prepare a statement of facts as suggested by the M. . . E. . . Grand High Priest. The Committee then retired, and after an absence of some time, returned and made their report, which was read, and, after having been amended, was adopted, and the Grand Secretary directed to have one thousand copies of the report printed, and copies transmitted to the various G. . . Chapters in the United States. (See Appendix for Report.)

On motion of Comp. MacGrotty, the thanks of the Grand Chapter were returned to Comp. Daniels for his services in preparing the report above alluded to.

There being no further business, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 11, 1867.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia was held at Central Masonic Hall, corner of D and Ninth streets, on Monday evening, November 11, 1867, at 8 o'clock.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp.	J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	- -	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. "	L. G. STEPHENS,	- -	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" "	G. W. HANCOCK,	- -	<i>Grand King.</i>
" "	W. MIDDLETON,	- -	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" "	C. SMITH,	- -	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
" "	N. D. LARNER,	- -	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" "	C. H. HALL,	- -	<i>Rev. Grand Chaplain.</i>
" "	J. LOCKIE,	- -	<i>Grand Cap. Host.</i>
" "	J. DANIELS,	- -	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" "	H. O. NOYES,	- -	<i>Grand R. A. Captain, p. 1.</i>
" "	E. B. MACGROTTY,	- -	<i>Grand Master 3d Vail.</i>
" "	H. A. WHALLON,	- -	<i>Grand Master 2d Vail.</i>
" "	W. H. ORCUTT,	- -	<i>Grand Master 1st Vail.</i>
Comp.	L. STODDARD,	- -	<i>Grand Janitor.</i>

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, with prayer by the Rev. Grand Chaplain, and, on calling the roll, the following Representatives and Past High Priests responded :

Columbia Chapter, No. 1—L. G. Stephens, H. P., J. Lockie, K., R. H. Boswell, S.

Washington Chapter, No. 2—W. Middleton, H. P., G. Boyden, S., and Past High Priests J. E. F. Holmead and J. Moody Smith.

Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3—H. A. Whallon, H. P., D. B. Searle, K., J. Daniels, S., and Past High Priest C. W. Hancock.

Eureka Chapter, No. 4—C. Smith, H. P., A. Buchley, K., E. B. MacGrotty, S.

La Fayette Chapter, No. 5—N. D. Lerner, H. P., and J. Edwin Mason, proxy for S.

The minutes of the resumed Convocation of June 19, and Special Convocation of October 5, 1867, were read and approved.

The M. E. Grand High Priest delivered the following address, which, on motion of the Grand Secretary, was ordered to be spread upon the record and published with the proceedings :

The hour is at hand when I am to return to you, COMPANIONS, the solemn and sacred trusts with which you have honored me. To-night I lay off the vestments and jewels of the High Priesthood, to move among you in some more humble service and duty of the order—though more humble, not the less to be cherished by one, in whose heart alone the good of the Chapter and the Craft is

the star of his hope and ambition. In doing this, and in view of the past, with its mercies and blessings, first of all it becomes me to return, for myself and you, the thanks of grateful hearts for the bestowment from on High of that divine Providence which has kept and sheltered and sustained us in our personal and federated relations.

The hand which has thus led and guided us was the hand of Him, our God, to whom we owe all submission and reverence, and from whom, for all the future, we crave continuance of mercies. His goodness and mercy have been vouchsafed to us, in not only keeping us closely banded together, although unexampled trials and difficulties have pressed us, but also in not permitting a single link of the golden chain to be broken which continues to bind our hearts in fellowship and love.

While all around us, within and outside our jurisdiction, the work of death has been accomplished, not one of the members of our Grand Chapter has fallen. No grave-wreaths have we woven—no funeral anthems have been chaunted—no burial honors have been called for. Our Chapter Brotherhood remains undisturbed by the hand of death.

But here let us pause, while our hearts pour out their tribute of veneration, affection, and love for the loss of one, although not immediately of our Grand Chapter, yet a Royal Arch Mason, whose name and memory will live among us while names are known among men, and memories endure.

You need no promptings from me, my companions, to call up, as from the grave, him whom so lately we laid down, covered all over with funeral honors the most coveting among us, when our work shall be done, might crave, and with which be over-satisfied, and over whom, as he lay en-coffined, we wept the tears which are wrung out alone from men's hearts when well nigh breaking.

George C. Whiting has passed from before us. His manly form has been hidden from our eyes. No more shall we behold him. His voice again, no, never, shall be heard among the craft; no more shall his kindly words and benignant smile cheer us in our work along life's toilsome way. He has called the craft for the last time. The Master's gavel has fallen from his hand. The Grand —, the Grand Master, the Companion, the friend, the Brother in our heart's warmest, best affections, sleeps with the dead. Who shall rise up among us, and stand where, and as he stood, the embodiment of all that was great and good in Masonry? so skilled in counsel, so rich in wisdom, so ripe in experience, so true in friendship, so warm and glowing in brotherly love, so embalmed in virtues, so deeply and lastingly enshrined in all our hearts. No jeweled honors which to him in life were given as testimonials of appreciation of his many virtues and endless services, inside and outside of the craft, were ever half so brilliant as now are the adornments which his truth, his justice, his brotherly love, his experience and wisdom have wreathed around his name, and make to us and every Mason his memory hallowed. To-night, my Companions, I hold him up as your great example in all belonging to the craft, and hesitate not to say when the hand of death strikes again a Brother, it cannot strike so high, or lay one among us down in a more honored Mason's grave.

Pardon, I pray you, if needs be, the foregoing allusion. He was my friend and Brother in all the kindest charities of life. I loved him while living, and revere him now dead. I attempt no eulogy of him, G. C. Whiting, my friend and Brother. This duty has been committed to abler hands; soon his eulogy will be

pronounced; and his name, character, and services receive the glowing tribute justly due. I have coveted alone the privilege to cast a wild flower upon his grave as I pause to mourn his loss.

Upon the occasion of my installation as Grand High Priest, in May last, I expressed the firm conviction that the formation of a Grand Chapter within the well defined geographical limits of the District of Columbia would not only dislodge the incubus which had well nigh drawn out the last life breath of capital Masonry, but that "light and life" would come, "imparting through all the various channels of the craft new haleness and fresh hopes, to cheer the hitherto desponding and despairing hearts of those whose faith had taught them" "that the age in which we live is the *age of progress*." At the same time we noted the fact that even in this age of progress there are those "whose eyes look not beyond the horizon inscribed by the hand of the past," and who of course were filled by "discontents" at the onward movement which then we were inaugurating in the formation of a Grand Chapter for this District.

From this class of "discontents" obstructions were to be expected; but so limited was the number, and so irresponsible the junto, we could not have supposed that much mischief could be expected. The almost unanimous ostracism of them by the Royal Arch Masons of the jurisdiction, we had imagined, would have over-awed them, and, therefore, from them but little harm was looked for. And so it would have been, had not aid and power been sought for outside of this jurisdiction in their behalf. Notwithstanding the embarrassments and difficulties encountered, the Chapters working by virtue of authority derived from our G. . C. . are most flourishing. The amount of work done by Columbia, Washington, and Mt. Vernon, the original Chapters, is unparalleled in their history; while Eureka and Lafayette, which received charters at the first meeting of our Grand Chapter, and which I instituted on the evening of June 1, 1867, have kept pace with their elder sisters, not only in the amount of work accomplished, but also in diffusing and sustaining those cardinal and cherished principles of Masonry, which alone can ever give permanency and sublimity to the Grand Temple wherein are deposited the archives of the Order.

Perhaps, not in the history of Royal Arch Masonry in this District has there ever been the same degree of watchfulness and scrutiny displayed with regard to the admission and advancement of brethren as during the year which to-night we close. An abundance of material has been presented, and glad am I to state that the Overseer's square has not been carelessly applied. Work not fit for the Temple, not such as would adorn and beautify the holy Royal Arch, has been freely rejected. That which has been admitted has been properly and skillfully dressed. At the first meeting of our Grand Chapter, indeed its very first act was to consider and place among our records a resolution, adopted unanimously, the intent of which was that henceforth and forever the degrees of Royal and Select Master should be held as purely independent *council degrees*, and being such, were not to be given in any Chapter whose charter emanated from our Grand Chapter. The work of the G. . G. . C. . was exemplified by M. . E. . Companion Mackey, whose name, experience, and services need no eulogium at my hands, and whose fame is known and recognized almost without a parallel throughout the entire body of American Masons.

The work of the G. . G. . C. . having been by him exemplified, was unanimously adopted as to be the work of our G. . C. . Thus it will be noted that

our G. . C. ., at the very threshold of its career, demanded at the hands of her constituents the strictest obedience to the requirements of the G. . G. . C. ., and compels them to work, in accordance with the precepts laid down by that G. . body. It may be well here to remark that while under the control of the late G. . C. . of Maryland and the District of Columbia, we, as forming a part of that jurisdiction, were compelled to obey its authority and adopt its work, directly in the teeth, not only of the recommendation, but of the positive edict of the G. . G. . C. . of the United States, with regard to the said degrees, to which edict, in 1853, the G. . C. . of Maryland and the District of Columbia, through her representatives, promised to give their obedience, but which, to this moment, Maryland has failed to acknowledge or redeem, still giving the Royal and Select Masters' degrees, not as Council, but Chapter degrees, while our G. . C. . with her earliest breath proclaimed her allegiance and loyalty in this regard to the G. . G. . C. . of the United States, and, as we have said, imposes as obligatory her purpose and action upon all who work under charters from her, or by her authority; such being the case, it surely must be patent to the most careless observer that no disposition could have been entertained by us to bring ourselves in conflict with, or in any degree to ignore the action of the G. . G. . C. ., or in any way to evade its teaching or practice.

No, my Companions, we were truly loyal in all our motives and proceedings, and not until the most strange, unnatural and unwarrantable interference on the part of M. . E. . Companion Lewis, the G. . G. . H. . P. . of the G. . G. . C. . of the United States, in our Chapter affairs, gave the note of warning that the purpose was not only to infringe the rights guaranteed to us by law, custom and usage, but also to annihilate the very order and being of the G. . C. ., which had in this jurisdiction been instituted, did we lift ourselves against his authority and seemingly put ourselves in antagonism with the G. . G. . C. . We say *seemingly*, and only so, for it is impossible for us to be brought to the conviction that the doings of the M. . E. . C. . Lewis shall receive the endorsement of the G. . G. . C. . No; we believe they will be repudiated in part and in whole at their next triennial meeting. To such a result we look with all manner of confidence and trust, not only for the sake of the well being of our own jurisdiction, but also for the sake of the Order, and peace; aye, the very existence of the G. . G. . C. . itself; for the principle for which we are contending is simply this, nothing more, nothing less—that a G. . C. . is *supreme* in its own territorial limits. Every Companion belonging to the G. . G. . C. ., and every State G. . C. . that votes to sustain him, admits that the G. . G. . H. . P. . has a right to interfere in his or their jurisdiction. Once admit the right of the G. . G. . C. . to invade State jurisdiction, and to annul at pleasure State authority, and you assail all that is dear to us in Masonic order in the very seat of its vitality.

To make ourselves palpably plain as to the foregoing utterances, we will now submit for your consideration, and for the information of our Companions at large, a missive which was, on June the 4th, 1867, addressed by M. . E. . C. . Lewis to all Royal Arch Masons, in the language and form of an edict, in the following words:

"OFFICE OF THE GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST,
"PENN YAN, N. Y., June 4, 1867.

"To all Companion Royal Arch Masons within our jurisdiction, Greeting:

"Know ye, That, having examined and considered the situation and condition of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, in the District of Columbia, and its rights under its

warrant, we do hereby decide and determine that said Potomac Chapter may continue its labors as heretofore, under and by virtue of its warrant, any *assumption* of authority by any Companion or body of Companions, save the Officers and Companions of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, or of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, to the contrary notwithstanding; and for so doing this shall be the warrant and authority of said Potomac Chapter, No. 8.

“(Signed)

JOHN L. LEWIS, 33.

[SEAL.]

“G. G. High Priest.”

This missive was not sent in any manner to us, but published in a certain Sunday paper of this city, which was the organ of Potomac Chapter—Potomac Chapter in turn, being his organ of communication with us, her Secretary performing for the G. G. H. P. all the duties which M. E. C. French presumed, as stated in his letter, belonged to the G. G. Secretary.

Upon reading the above remarkable paper, over the signature of M. E. C. Lewis, we were at a loss how, or in what manner we should entertain it, whether as a real and substantial edict from the M. E. G. H. Priest, or as the emanation of some distorted brain; or, finally, as a low hoax, designed by some one to bring both the G. G. H. P. and our own G. C. into contempt and ridicule, for we could not stretch our faith or imagination to the extent at once to warrant us in giving credence to it as a veritable edict of the G. G. H. P. But soon the developments were such as to force upon us the conviction that that which at the first blush we were willing to think was an unreality, was too surely the edict of the G. G. H. P., and put forth to be obeyed by him, in no mistakable words or measure. We shall now proceed to show what reason we had for our skepticism as to the genuineness of said edict.

First of all, it was entirely known by us that the G. G. C. gave to the M. E. Comp. no authority to issue such an edict, G. G. H. P. as he was.

Again, it was known to us also that Potomac Chapter, to whom and in whose behalf said edict was addressed, was within the jurisdiction, geographically and well defined, of the G. C. of the District of Columbia, to which allegiance alone was due, and could be lawfully given by Potomac Chapter. Was it ever heard of before? Was it ever written in the annals of Masonry that power and authority were legally or rightfully given to a subordinate Chapter to work outside of a lawfully constituted jurisdiction, to which it naturally belonged; to ignore its laws and proceedings? Not only so, but also to attach itself to, and work under a foreign jurisdiction, when said foreign jurisdiction had on two distinct occasions emphatically declared that it should not so attach itself and work? This Maryland did in reference to Potomac Chapter, at the special Convocation of ——. To what extravagant length has not M. E. C. Lewis gone in this, his edict? Said edict was issued by him after consultation with P. G. H. P. Smith and the H. P. of Potomac Chapter, who sought his presence at Penn Yan for the purpose of over-riding and over-ruling not only the legitimate power of our own G. C., but also the deliberate action of the late G. C. of Maryland and the District of Columbia, which action had been dictated by P. G. H. P. Smith himself; and they must have informed him that upon two several occasions, the special Convocations referred to, Potomac Chapter had sought permission to retain her allegiance to Maryland, being located within the jurisdiction of our G. C., and that upon each occasion the Companions of Maryland united with the Companions from Washington, and refused to grant such request, deeming the same to be illegal and eminently improper. The edict of M. E. C.

Lewis not only invades, therefore, the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, but also that of Maryland, and furthermore makes it obligatory upon Maryland, if any force is to be given to his edict, to recognize, and hold as a constituent, a Chapter outside of her jurisdiction, against the protest of the District of Columbia, and the twice solemnly repeated utterances of the Maryland jurisdiction. I know not what Maryland may now do in regard to this matter. She may perhaps bend her knee at the footstool of power; overawed she may be by the imposing title of the interfering office. I don't speak of Maryland in the future; I speak of Maryland in the past.

But again, on July 13th, another edict was issued by M. E. C. Lewis, which, if possible, is more remarkable than the one already submitted, and is in the following language:

"OFFICE OF THE G. G. HIGH PRIEST
OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF U. S. A.,
PENN YAN, July 13, 1867.

"To all Companion Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, Greeting:

"Whereas a body, claiming to be the 'Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia,' having, on the 19th of June last, assumed to exercise acts of discipline upon M. E. Companion James G. Smith, P. G. High Priest, by suspending him indefinitely from the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, he has claimed the protection of the General Grand Chapter; and -

"Whereas an examination of the points involved in this case have necessarily led me into an investigation of the standing and Masonic relations of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, of which M. E. Companion Smith was and is a member, and also those of the body claiming to be a Grand Chapter, and to exercise jurisdiction over M. E. Companion Smith; and from this investigation I am brought to the conclusion that Potomac Chapter has been guilty of no irregularity, while that of the Companions who formed the so-called Grand Chapter has been hasty and irregular, and that the latter body has in fact no legal existence as a Masonic body, its preliminary Convention having been held without the authority of any General Grand officer, and been illegally constituted; and

"Whereas said body has assumed to declare said Potomac Chapter to be irregular and clandestine, and to forbid Masonic intercourse with it and its members, and has in other ways endeavored to interfere with the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons within said District:

"Now, therefore, as General Grand High Priest, I do hereby ordain, declare, and proclaim the said body, claiming to be the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia to have no valid legal existence, and hence to be irregular and clandestine; and all Grand Chapters, subordinate Chapters, and Royal Arch Masons within our jurisdiction are hereby enjoined and strictly forbidden from having any Masonic intercourse with, or from any recognition of the authority of, said so-called Grand Chapter, as such; and the Chapters and Companions who formed and now assist to compose the same, are required to withdraw from and abandon such illegal organization within one month from the date of service of a copy of this order, or be subject to penalty. And the High Priest of said Potomac Chapter is hereby directed to have such copies prepared and served, under the seal of his Chapter, with all convenient speed.

"And, in the meantime, I would earnestly and fraternally exhort said Companion Royal Arch Masons to pause and deliberate, and institute proper and legal measures for a regular organization as a Grand Chapter, pursuant to the General Grand Constitutions and the usages of Royal Arch Masonry, assuring them of the cordial sympathy and co-operation of the General Grand officers in so doing.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and private seal, at the place and date first above written.

"JOHN L. LEWIS, 33."

"G. G. High Priest.

"Attest:

"SAMUEL F. PRIMROSE,
[SEAL.] "Secretary Potomac Chapter, No. 8."

[SEAL.]

It will be seen by the foregoing edict that the same was called forth by the M. E. C. James G. Smith, who was indefinitely suspended, on June 19th, by the G. C. of the District of Columbia, *for refusing to obey a Masonic summons*. This was his high offence, and not as some have falsely stated, for his affiliating with Potomac Chapter.

Now, if our G. C. has "no valid, legal existence," and is "irregular and clandestine," as M. E. C. Lewis has published to the world, where was the necessity that M. E. C. Smith should invoke his "protection," or that M. E. C. Lewis should entertain an appeal from an "invalid, irregular, and clandestine" body, and give the "protection" of the G. C. to one so situated. Would not such a procedure almost warrant the belief that both the disciplined Companion and the G. H. P. each thought that there was reason to imagine, at least, that the G. C. of the District of Columbia was something more than an "invalid, irregular, and clandestine" body, so "valid" that its action was to be overruled alone by all the powers of the G. H. P. of the G. C. of the United States. We leave others to make judgment in this matter.

But again, where does M. E. C. Lewis find authority for entertaining an appeal of any sort?

In article 1, section 2, 4th paragraph, the following is laid down in the Constitution of the G. G. Chapter:

"It shall have no power of discipline, admonition, censure or instruction over the Grand Chapters, nor any legislative powers whatever, not hereby specially granted, nor any authority to suspend the proceedings of any State Grand Chapters, nor shall entertain any complaint against a Grand Chapter, preferred by any subordinate Chapter or individual Mason in that jurisdiction or elsewhere; but it may upon proper reference to it of any matter of controversy between any two or more Grand Chapters, and even where the question is not one of Masonic law, custom or usage, (both or all such Grand Chapters consenting to such reference,) act as final arbiter between them, and settle such controversy."

Here, in the Constitution of the G. C. Chapter, the whole course which M. E. C. Lewis has seen fit to adopt towards the G. C. of the District of Columbia, in the most unqualified language is not only disallowed, but repudiated. That there has been an unwarrantable assumption of power, and tyrannical interference, in matters not belonging to him or his high position, cannot be doubted. We leave it for him to declare to the Chapters of the United States, the source from whence he has derived his assumed powers outside of the Constitution of the G. G. C., for in it neither he or they shall find them. And now, my Companions, was our G. C. legally formed or not? At the Special Convocation on the evenings of March 26 and 27, 1867, by the G. C. of Maryland and the District of Columbia, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas the time having now arrived when the interests of Capitular Masonry require a dissolution of this Grand Chapter, and that the District of Columbia should constitute a separate jurisdiction: therefore,

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter gives its full and cordial consent to a separation of the jurisdiction, and to the establishment of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia; and when said Grand Chapter is legally formed and constituted, the separation shall be complete, and the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter over the District of Columbia shall cease."

All of the Maryland Companions, with but two exceptions, voted in favor of said resolution. The preamble of this resolution, in view of the above fact, is certainly most significant; for we see, not only that our Washington Companions desired the separation, but also the Companions from Maryland. Nor was this

simply a desire, but from the wording of the preamble, it was made an imperative duty, for the language is, "the time having now arrived when the interests of Capitalar Masonry require a dissolution." And it will be further noticed that the only condition imposed was that our G. . C. . should be "legally formed and constituted."

Who was to be the Judge in the premises whether our G. . C. . was "legally formed and constituted"? Maryland, of course, she alone having any concern in the matter. Her decision of this question is full, clear, and emphatic, as will be seen by the following resolution, passed at the Special Convocation on the evening of May —, 1867:

"Whereas the Chapters in the District of Columbia have proceeded to organize a Grand Chapter in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the Special Communication of this Grand Chapter, held March 26th and 27th last, [quoted above]: therefore,

"Resolved, That the division of the jurisdiction is hereby declared to be complete."

Now, my Companions, the legality of the separation from Maryland has not only received her sanction, but, also, the positive avouchment of the G. . G. . H. . P. .—for in his edict of June 4th, already quoted, he directs Potomac Chapter to recognize no authority but that of the G. . G. . C. . or the "Grand Chapter of Maryland." From whence does the G. . G. . H. . P. . get the designation of G. . C. . of Maryland? It existed not before the act of separation. It was produced alone by the act of separation, and exists at this moment only because of the separation, by the action of Maryland and the District of Columbia, not in granting the act of separation, but in empowering the Companions of the District of Columbia to form here a G. . C. . The G. . G. . H. . Priest thus recognized the act of separation from Maryland in an official edict. He is compelled to elect between these two positions, either to recognize the legality of our G. . C. ., or declare the District of Columbia unoccupied territory. Now, he cannot hold us as unoccupied territory, for too well he knows how imperative is the claim of the G. . G. . C. . with regard to all unoccupied territory, in no case acknowledging any State authority therein. But, when an appeal was made to him by M. . E. . C. . Smith and the H. . P. . of Potomac Chapter, if he considered the District of Columbia to be unoccupied territory, his only course was to issue his dispensation directing Potomac Chapter to work under authority derived from him as G. . G. . H. . Priest, he having no more authority to order Potomac Chapter to work under a charter derived from Maryland, and especially in view of the fact above stated that Maryland had, upon two several occasions, peremptorily and unanimously refused to permit Potomac Chapter so to work—than he has to compel any of the other State G. . Chapters recognizing the G. . G. . C. . to issue a Charter for the District of Columbia. How can the G. . G. . C. ., with what grace can she, object to the issuing of charters within her jurisdiction by State authority, if the G. . G. . H. . Priest, as in the case before us, has the right to *compel* a State Grand Chapter, against her express will, to retain authority over a Chapter outside of her jurisdiction, thus eschewing the authority of the G. . G. . C. . over unoccupied territory entirely?

No, my Companions, M. . E. . C. . Lewis did not consider the District of Columbia, after its separation from Maryland, unoccupied territory. Before the act of separation from Maryland was consummated, and our G. . C. . formed and its officers installed, M. . E. . C. . Lewis was put in possession of all the facts connected with the

proposed separation and formation of our Chapter, and also of the further fact, that the Convention which led to the formation of the G. . C. . of the District of Columbia, held the opinion and acted in accordance with it, that the consent of one of the first four officers was unnecessary; *and the same met with his entire approval.* If in all these proceedings there was any irregularity, now was the time for M. . E. . C. . Lewis to speak and arrest, had he the power, further action—now to speak or forever hold his peace. About this we cannot be mistaken, as the following correspondence will clearly demonstrate :

OFFICE OF THE M. . W. . GRAND MASTER,
F. . AND A. . M. . OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON, May 11, A. . L. . 5867.

M. . E. . JOHN L. LEWIS,

*G. . G. . High Priest of the United States,
Penn Yan, Yates County, New York :*

MY DEAR SIR—The imminent danger now impending over the peace and harmony of Royal Arch Masonry in the District of Columbia, will, I am sure, be a satisfactory apology to you for this communication. My apprehensions may be allayed, or the cause of them entirely removed, by the opinion you may be pleased to give in the case—I am now about to submit to you as briefly and succinctly as possible.

In the year 1824, the Chapters in this District, with the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and with the permission of DeWitt Clinton, M. . E. . G. . G. . H. . P. ., formed themselves into a Grand Chapter, which was recognized and admitted by the General Grand Chapter at its September Convocation, in the year 1826.

The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, thus formed, having ceased to exist for want of the requisite number of constituent Chapters, (some of them having become defunct,) the General Grand Chapter, in the year 1841, authorized and empowered the M. . E. . D. . G. . G. . H. . Priest to place all Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in that part of the District of Columbia which formerly belonged to the State of Maryland, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of that State; which was accordingly done.

Royal Arch Masonry in the District of Columbia having reached a most flourishing condition, and resting now upon the most solid and permanent foundations, the Chapters have deemed it for the interests of Capitular Masonry to resuscitate their Grand Chapter, or to form a new one; and for this purpose have again asked and obtained the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, at a special convocation held in the City of Baltimore, on the 27th of March last, and subsequently appointed delegates to a convention, which has completed all the preliminary arrangements it deemed necessary and proper for the installation of the officers, and the constitution of the Grand Chapter, and have appointed the 23d of the present month for these ceremonies.

These are the material facts of the case, and the question upon which I desire your views is, whether or not, under these circumstances, the Grand Chapter can be legally formed and constituted without the permission of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter previously obtained?

The convention was very unanimous in the opinion that such permission was not necessary, and have proceeded thus far on that idea. If they are in error on this subject, their error is one of judgment only; for, notwithstanding my dissent

from their views, I can fully vouch for their loyalty and respect for legal authority, and attest [their devotion as true and faithful brothers and companions. Their conclusions are the result of earnest inquiry and honest convictions. In reaching them they have been aided and greatly influenced by the advice and opinions of one whose eminence and standing in the Order have ever commanded the deference and respect which the friends of this movement have accorded to his views of Masonic jurisprudence.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia will hold a Special Convocation in the City of Baltimore, on Thursday, the 16th instant, and I have reason to believe that this subject will be again brought under consideration, in some form, and to apprehend action which may be fraught with disastrous consequences to Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction.

The Royal Arch Masons in the District of Columbia, with the exception of most of those living in Georgetown, are almost unanimous in favor of the re-establishment of a Grand Chapter here, the only question upon which we are at all divided being the one which I have herein submitted to you.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia having, with great cordiality and singular unanimity, assented to the division of the jurisdiction, and the formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia, this is the only question which is likely to give rise to any serious difference of opinion. I am not entirely satisfied that the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia has any further exclusive control over the manner in which the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia shall be formed. Any doubts which may be found to exist, after the act shall have been consummated, as to the legality of our proceedings in this, and in all other respects, will be for the General Grand Chapter to settle, and not for the Grand Chapter of Maryland, any more than for any other Grand Chapter. I desire to keep this question out of the Grand Chapter at its approaching session, and thereby avert the discussion and discord likely to ensue. This can be effectually done by the course which I have, with due deference to the dissenting views of my Companions, insisted upon, and that is, first to obtain the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter.

Now, aside from the official relation you hold towards us, and all Royal Arch Masons in America, I am well assured of the profound respect and esteem in which you are held by every Royal Arch Mason in this District; and I have every reason to believe, and do believe, that, notwithstanding their present clear convictions as to the law of their case, your views, *in answer to this communication*, will control their action in the matter.

As your answer cannot be received by mail previous to the proposed meeting of the Grand Chapter, I hope you will be able to telegraph me immediately on the receipt of this, an affirmative or negative reply to the question I have submitted, and to favor me with your reply by mail at your earliest convenience.

I am, dear sir, faithfully and fraternally yours,

GEO. C. WHITING, 33d,
Grand Master.

P. S.—Please address me by telegraph, at the "Department of the Interior," or 202 I street, so that it will be immediately delivered, whether I am at the Department at the time, or at home; and by mail to Post Office box No. 742.

G. C. W.

From a careful perusal of the foregoing letter, it will clearly appear that our late Companion Whiting was most solicitous to disclose to M. E. C. Lewis all the facts and circumstances attendant upon the proposed separation and formation of our G. C., and that he was of the opinion himself that the consent of one of the first four officers was necessary. Indeed, he writes almost invitingly to M. E. C. Lewis to be at agreement with him as regards the consent of one of the said officers. To this communication of our lamented Companion Whiting, what was the reply? The following telegram and letter shall speak for themselves:

"PENN YAN, N. Y., May 13, 1867.

"Consent probably unnecessary. Hereby granted if it is. Will write.

"JOHN L. LEWIS."

"OFFICE OF THE G. G. HIGH PRIEST OF THE

"G. GRAND CHAPTER OF THE U. S. A.,

"PENN YAN, N. Y., May 13, 1867.

"GEORGE C. WHITING, Esq.

"GRAND MASTER, DEAR SIR, AND M. W. BRO.: Yours of the 11th received a short time since, and telegram sent as requested. You may be surprised at the peculiar verbiage of the telegram, and I hasten to explain. The portion of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter bearing upon the question you submit, is section 9 of article 2, which provides for the formation of a Grand Chapter by three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated, '*by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution*,' and with the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter. Your communication does not inform me whether the Chapters were regularly instituted by authority of the General Grand Chapter, or by State Chapter authority. If by Maryland, or any other State, then the approbation above required, is *clearly not required*. If by the General Grand Chapter, then the question arises whether their subsequent independence, by recognition of the latter body, does not still obviate the necessity of consent. Please advise me as to these facts.

"The question is of little practical importance, except that the consent may be a work of supererogation, and I am too orthodox to believe in such works.

"The approbation will be cheerfully and promptly given, and the order will bear date as of to-day, as indicated by my telegram. For the present, please regard this letter as *private* and *unofficial*, though not confidential.

"Very sincerely and fraternally,

"JOHN L. LEWIS, 33."

"If consent was necessary," the telegram gave it. But from M. E. C. Lewis' letter it will be seen that consent was wholly unnecessary, and so deemed by him—for, the question with him was, simply, whether or not, the Chapters forming the G. C. were working under State authority or not. Upon this point he asks to be advised by Companion Whiting. Comp. Whiting gave the necessary advice and informs M. E. C. Lewis that the Chapters here were working under State authority, which fact must be admitted by every companion investigating the matter, truth alone being the guide of his search. In connection with this subject of State authority I will not detain you; and did I, but little could I add to what was submitted to you by me, on the 23d of May last, upon the occasion of my installation, and certainly could not give strength to the full, able, and exhaustive argument of your Committee, adopted on the 5th instant, and which will be embodied in our annual report.

This point having been so fully settled and communicated to M. E. C. Lewis, that we were working under State authority, and not by authority derived from the G. G. C., am I not fully sustained in saying that M. E. C. Lewis was en-

tirely in possession of all the circumstances of the case, and being thus possessed, did give his unqualified sanction to the formation of the G. . C. . of the District of Columbia?

Under all these circumstances, what shall be, what can be, thought of the edict issued by M. . E. . C. . Lewis, in which we are declared as a Chapter "having no valid, legal existence, irregular and clandestine," and all "Royal Arch Masons strictly forbidden from having any Masonic intercourse" with us?

If M. . E. . C. . Lewis, before the issuing of his edict, deemed us, as he says, "clandestine," was not the duty incumbent upon him to have advised and consulted us in the matter—at least to have spoken one warning word of the dangers ahead of us, and the perils of excommunications threatening us? Would it not seem that his profound wisdom, vast experience, brotherly love, Masonic charity, high and exalted position, all, being possessed of the whole history of our contemplated movement, as he was, should have demanded of him some appeal to us, his companions, numbering in our jurisdiction some five hundred, that we pause in our career and await the coming of a new light which he might shed upon the affairs of our jurisdiction?

But to this moment not one word has ever reached us, save only by the edicts which have been fulminated against us through Potomac Chapter, it being his elected and favored organ of communication with our jurisdiction, as already stated. It might have been thought that the solemn protests of M. . E. . C. . Mackey, B. B. French, Rockwell, and Comp. Whiting, who fully understood the condition of things here, would have at least suggested the propriety of withholding his edict of excommunication till he should have consulted with them and us about the movement, before we should have been held up to the gaze of the world as clandestine Masons, unworthy the respect and countenance of all the brotherhood of true Companions.

But M. . E. . C. . Lewis says he has investigated, "has made an examination of the points involved," and has concluded the whole affair as announced in his edict—with whom did he counsel? What were the sources of his information? To this date, not even an answer has been returned to the respectful and earnest communications of the M. . E. . C. . French and Comp. Whiting. We fear the discovery will yet be made—that the legerdemain of the irresponsible junto has again been practised upon the M. . E. . C. . and G. . H. . P. .; and from this source alone shall be found he has derived counsel and advice in all this lamentable affair. True, the only olive branch of peace which was held out to us was the permission, within thirty days, to renounce the jurisdiction of our G. . C. ., and seek refuge within the walls of Potomac Chapter. The bridge which his hand thus so graciously opened for us to show the yawning chasm between what he deems to be "clandestine" and regular, and over which escape might be had from the direful effect of his edict, so far as I am informed, after diligent inquiry, not the foot of a single companion has trod—thus manifesting how futile has been the attempt to overthrow and destroy the G. . C. ., in the formation of which he had so effectually aided and abetted, and whose just and legal authority no companion in this jurisdiction would have questioned had it not have been for his, as we deem, unwarrantable usurpation of power, and offensive exercise thereof.

If hereafter in this jurisdiction harmony should be broken, good will should cease among us, the spirit of peace depart, brotherly love die out, we hesitate not to say, to the M. . E. . G. . H. . Priest alone will belong the responsibility of such

lamentable results. To counteract the baleful influence of the edict of the M. E. G. H. Priest, and if possible stem the surging torrent of disloyalty and disunion, the flood gates of which he has opened in our jurisdiction, we were compelled to issue, on the 19th of July, the following edict:

GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST,

WASHINGTON, July 19, 1867.

To all R. A. Masons in the jurisdiction of the

Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia:

GREETING: An edict purporting to be issued by M. E. John L. Lewis, G. H. P. of the G. G. Chapter of the U. S., having been published in this city, in which he declares the Grand R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia to be irregular and not legally formed; now, therefore, I, James E. F. Holmead, G. H. P. of the G. R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia, do hereby declare that said edict is of no binding force on any R. A. Mason in the District of Columbia, as this Grand Chapter is the only authority which they will be allowed to recognize.

And I do further proclaim that all R. A. Masons in the District of Columbia, acknowledging said pretended authority, shall be tried and disciplined for unmasonic conduct shown by such act or deed. The authority of the G. R. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia will be the only legal source from which authority can be derived, and all R. A. Masons will govern themselves accordingly.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD,

G. H. P.

Attest:

NOBLE D. LARNER,

[SEAL.]

Grand Secretary.

And now, my companions, in view of all the difficulties with which we were environed, had I done less, would I not have been recreant to duty, false to the sacred trust you have committed to my keeping, dishonored myself, and struck a fatal blow to the very heart of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction? The decisions of all these questions most cheerfully I leave with you.

In conclusion, I would say our appeal has been made to the sisterhood of Grand Chapters for recognition. Already the cheerful notes have come to us from Ohio and Kentucky, and with confidence do we await the swelling chorus which shall be chaunted in our behalf by G. G. Chapters composed of companions of "good will" in all our jurisdiction the union over, for we ask not mercy, but simply that our cause may be weighed in the scales of justice, tried by the standard of truth. To you, my companions, my closing words are, stand firm; the right is with us; the field of Masonic usefulness is spread out before us. The harvest is inviting; in due time we shall reap, if we faint not.

The Grand Secretary presented the following bills, which were ordered to be paid:

Gibson Bros., printing, \$65; J. D. Pearson, printing, \$71.25; McGill & Witherow, printing, \$50; Grand Secretary, postage, &c. \$18.04.

The following communications from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, and from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, were read and ordered to be spread upon the record and published with the proceedings:

THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY AND GRAND RECORDER
OF THE MASONIC GRAND BODIES OF OHIO,
CINCINNATI, OHIO, October 14, 1867.

Comp.: Noble D. Larner, Ex.: Grand Secretary of the M.: Ex.: Grand Chapter of the D. C., Washington, D. C. :

The M.: Ex.: Grand Chapter of Ohio, in session this day, after defence of your position as a Grand Chapter by the Most Ex.: Grand High Priest, Comp.: Rex, in his address and earnest advocacy of your legality in the Report of the Com. on Foreign Communications, and on Report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, without a dissenting voice, adopted resolutions as follows :

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter endorses the positions taken by the M.: Ex.: Grand High Priest in his address, and the Committee on Foreign Communications in their report in relation to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That the Grand Chapter, being thoroughly convinced of the legality of the organization of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia does now recognize it as a legal Grand Chapter, and extend to it the right hand of brotherly love and friendly greeting.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be, and he is hereby, instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

[SEAL.] Witness the seal of the Grand Chapter, and my official signature.

JOHN D. CALDWELL,
Gr. Sec. Gr. Chap. Ohio

FRANKFORT, October 28, 1867.

N. D. LARNER, Esq. :

DEAR SIR AND COMP. : I herewith enclose a copy of the resolution *unanimously* adopted by the Grand Chapter of Kentucky on the 22d instant, which affords me no ordinary pleasure.

Respectfully and fraternally,

P. SWIGERT, G. Secy.

"Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Kentucky, in Annual Convocation, assembled at the Masonic Temple, in the City of Louisville, on the 22d day of October, A. D. 1867.

"The following resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted :

"Whereas since the last communication of this Grand Chapter, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia has been formed and duly established by our distinguished and most excellent Companion, Albert G. Mackey, in strict accordance with the laws and usages of our order : therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Kentucky tenders their congratulation to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and hereby accept said Grand Chapter as an important acquisition to Capitular Masonry in this country."

It was further—

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary communicate the foregoing under the seal of this Grand Chapter to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

*"P. SWIGERT,
"Grand Secretary."*

[SEAL.]

The Grand Secretary stated that in accordance with the decision of the M. E. Grand High Priest, the various Chapters in the jurisdiction had made their annual returns for the whole year, when Comp. Daniels submitted the following resolution :

Resolved, That the dues of the Chapters to the Grand Chapter be computed from the formation of the Grand Chapter, viz : May 23, 1867.

Which was disagreed to.

On motion, the decision of the M. E. Grand High Priest, above referred to, was approved.

On motion of Comp. Searle, \$100 was appropriated to pay the Grand Secretary for his services since the formation of the Grand Chapter.

On motion of Comp. Middleton, \$20 was appropriated to pay the Grand Janitor for his services.

On motion, 600 copies of the proceedings were ordered to be printed.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was authorized to purchase the necessary books and stationery for the use of the Grand Chapter.

Comp. MacGrotty moved that a committee of three be appointed to inquire as to cost of a set jewels for the Grand Chapter ; which motion was lost.

Comp. Middleton, from the Committee appointed to revise the work of the jurisdiction, reported that the Committee was prosecuting its labors, but were not yet prepared to submit a final report, and asked for further time ; which was granted ; and, on motion of Comp. Lockie, the Committee was enlarged to include the Council of each Chapter.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing Masonic year, which resulted in the election of the following Companions :

Grand High Priest, Comp. J. E. F. Holmead ; Deputy Grand High Priest, Comp. L. G. Stephens ; Grand King, Comp. C. W. Hancock ; Grand Scribe, Comp. W. Middleton ; Grand Treasurer, Comp. C. Smith ; Grand Secretary, Comp. N. D. Larner ; Rev. Grand Chaplain, Comp. C. H. Hall ; Grand Captain of the Host, Comp. J. Lockie.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment until Monday evening, November 18, at 8 o'clock.

NOBLE D. LARNER,

Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 18, 1867.

The Grand R. . . A. . . Chapter of the District of Columbia met on Monday evening, November 18, at 8 o'clock P. M., and resumed labor.

PRESENT :

R. . . E. . . L. G. STEPHENS, D. . . G. . . H. . . P. . . ,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . High Priest, p. t.</i>
" C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . King.</i>
" J. H. RUSSELL,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . Scribe, p. t.</i>
" C. SMITH,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . Treasurer.</i>
" N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . Secretary.</i>
" J. LOCKIE,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . C. . . Host.</i>
" L. D. ISHAM,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . P. . . S. . . , p. t.</i>
" D. S. JONES,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . R. . . A. . . C. . . , p. t.</i>
" E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . M. . . 3d Vail.</i>
" A. E. H. JOHNSON,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . M. . . 2d Vail, p. t.</i>
" C. P. WANNALL,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . M. . . 1st Vail, p. t.</i>
Comp. L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	-	-	<i>G. . . Janitor,</i>

And Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The acting Grand High Priest then stated that the Grand Chapter had been called off until this time for the purpose of installing the Grand Officers elect, but in consequence of the unavoidable absence of the M. . . E. . . Grand High Priest from the City, the installation would have to be postponed, and he called the Grand Chapter from labor to refreshment until Friday evening, November 22, at 8 o'clock P. M.

NOBLE D. LARNER,

Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 22, 1867.

The Grand R. . . A. . . Chapter of the District of Columbia met on Friday evening, November 22, at 8 o'clock P. M., and resumed labor.

PRESENT :

R. . . E. . . Comp. L. G. STEPHENS, D. . . G. . . H. . . P. . . ,	<i>Grand High Priest, p. t.</i>
" " W. H. JOHNSON, - - - -	<i>Grand King.</i>
" " W. MIDDLETON, - - - -	<i>Grand Scribe.</i>
" " C. SMITH, - - - -	<i>Grand Treasurer, p. t.</i>
" " N. D. LARNER, - - - -	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" " J. LOCKIE, - - - -	<i>Grand C. . . H. . .</i>
" " J. DANIELS, - - - -	<i>Grand P. . . S. . .</i>
" " W. A. SHORT, - - - -	<i>Grand R. . . A. . . C. . . , p. t.</i>

R. E. Comp. E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Master 3d Vail.</i>
" " H. A. WHALLON,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Master 2d Vail.</i>
" " W. H. ORCUTT,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Master 1st Vail.</i>
Comp. L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Janitor,</i>

And Representatives from Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5.

The acting Grand High Priest stated that as the Grand High Priest was still absent from the city, the installation of the Grand Officers would be postponed until Monday evening, the 25th inst., at 8 o'clock, until which time he called the Grand Chapter from labor to refreshment.

NOBLE D. LARNER,

Grand Secretary.

RESUMED CONVOCATION.

WASHINGTON, November 25, 1867.

The Grand R. E. A. Chapter of the District of Columbia met on Monday evening, November 25, at 8 o'clock P. M., and resumed labor.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp. J. E. F. HOLMEAD,	-	-	-	<i>Grand High Priest.</i>
R. E. Comp. L. G. STEPHENS,	-	-	-	<i>Deputy Grand High Priest.</i>
" " C. W. HANCOCK,	-	-	-	<i>Grand King.</i>
" " A. T. LONGLEY,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Scribe, p. t.</i>
" " C. SMITH,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Treasurer.</i>
" " N. D. LARNER,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Secretary.</i>
" " J. LOCKIE,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Capt. Host.</i>
" " J. DANIELS,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" " I. W. STANTON,	-	-	-	<i>Grand R. E. A. Capt. p. t.</i>
" " E. B. MacGROTTY,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Master 3d Vail.</i>
" " H. A. WHALLON,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Master 2d Vail.</i>
" " W. H. ORCUTT,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Master 1st Vail.</i>
Comp. L. STODDARD,	-	-	-	<i>Grand Janitor,</i>

Past Grand High Priest, B. B. French, and Representatives from Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Comp. B. B. French, P. G. H. Priest, took the east, and addressed the Grand Chapter, congratulating it upon the unprecedented prosperity of Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia since the formation of the Grand Chapter, and the bright future that was before them; after which he proceeded to install the Grand Officers, as follows :

M. E. Grand High Priest,	-	-	-	J. E. F. HOLMEAD.
R. E. D. Grand High Priest.	-	-	-	L. G. STEPHENS.
" Grand King,	-	-	-	C. W. HANCOCK.
" " Treasurer,	-	-	-	C. SMITH.

R. . E. . Grand Secretary,	-	-	-	-	N. D. LARNER.
" " Capt. of the Host,	-	-	-	-	J. LOCKIE.
" " Principal Sojourner,	-	-	-	-	J. DANIELS.
" " R. . A. . Capt.	-	-	-	-	J. ED. MASON.
" " Master of the 3d Vail,	-	-	-	-	E. B. MacGROTTY.
" " Master of the 2d Vail,	-	-	-	-	H. A. WHALLON.
" " Master of the 1st Vail,	-	-	-	-	W. H. ORCUTT.
Grand Janitor,	-	-	-	-	L. STODDARD.

The M. . E. . Grand High Priest announced the following Committees :

On Foreign Correspondence—

Comp. B. B. FRENCH,
 " J. ED. MASON,
 " L. G. STEPHENS.

On Jurisprudence—

Comp. N. P. CHIPMAN,
 " J. DANIELS,
 " J. LOCKIE.

On Charters—

Comp. C. SMITH,
 " A. T. LONGLEY,
 " H. A. WHALLON.

On Accounts—

Comp. E. B. MacGROTTY,
 " W. MIDDLETON,
 " C. W. HANCOCK.

On motion, a Committee, consisting of Companions N. D. Larner, J. Daniels, and J. Lockie, was appointed to revise the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, and report at the semi-annual Convocation.

There being no further business, the Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.

C. SMITH, *Grand Treasurer, in account with the Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia.*

D.R.		C.R.	
1867.		1867.	
June 1	To cash from Grand Secretary	\$180 00	To H. O. Hood, for seal and press.....
Nov. 8	" "	42 50	J. G. Brough, for design of seal
Nov. 11	" "	458 00	E. B. MacGroty, for preparing charters for Eureka and La Fayette Chapters.....
			Gibson Bros., for printing.....
			J. L. Pearson, for printing.....
			McGill & Witherow, for printing.....
			Grand Secretary, for salary and incident- als.....
			Grand Janitor, for salary
			Balance
		\$680 50	\$680 50

COLUMBIA CHAPTER, No. 1.

Meets on first and third Wednesdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

JOHN LOCKIE, M. E. H. Priest.	JOSEPH T. BROWN, E. King.
CHARLES T. NUTZE, E. Scribe.	JOSIAH ESSEX, Treasurer.
HENRY O. NOYES, Secretary.	L. STODDARD, Janitor.

PAST HIGH PRIESTS AND PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

B. B. FRENCH, P. H. P. and P. G. High Priest.
L. G. STEPHENS, P. H. P. and D. G. H. Priest.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Albright, F.	Cole, H. V.	Hammacher, J.
Armstrong, R. G.	Coleman, S. B.	Heilbrun, L.
Beck, W.	Collins, J. F.	Herzberg, C.
Becker, C. F.	Copp, H. N.	Hills, W. H.
Benjamin, S. C.	Corbett, F. E.	Holmead, Rev. Alfred
Beatty, J. Hamilton	Cowie, Geo.	Hood, H. O.
Bishop, D. J.	Creaser, T.	Houston, J. H.
Bliss, D. W.	Crosby, W. H.	Humer, J. S.
Boswell, R. H.	Crown, S. T.	Jewell, J. M.
Bowen, C. H.	Cruit, Henry	Johansen, H. P. T.
Brown, J. S.	Curtis, H. B.	Jochum, J. H.
Brown, J. T.	Demelman, D. S.	Kennedy, G. W.
Brown, E. R.	Dillon, M. A.	Kennedy, R. B.
Bryan, W.	Donaldson, R. B.	Kerr, John
Butt, S.	Dummer, Geo. E.	Klotz, Chas.
Burr, H. C.	Edmond, J. D.	Knox, G. W.
Casey, C. C.	Edwards, E.	Kondrup, J. C.
Cawood, A. J.	Essex, Josiah	Leisnitzer, E. J.
Chamberlain, W. D.	French, B. B.	Leonard, T. Jeff.
Champion, R. A.	Garfield, J. A.	Lockie, John
Choate, W. C.	Gawler, A. H.	Lord, J. B.
Choate, W.	Gibson, Geo.	Macarty, D. J.
Clubb, J. L.	Gibbons, C. H.	Magee, J. S.
Clark, T. C.	Greer, C. E.	McGuire, J. C.
Cohen, Mark	Hall, Rev. C. H.	McKee, J. W.

McMurray, R.
Menet, F. J.
Merrill, H. S.
Milburn, Benedict
Mills, W. H.
Mitchell, S. B. W.
Moore, S. H.
Moore, W. O.
Morgan, Henry
Moulden, J. A.
Muldrum, J.
Nelson, C. C.
Niles, S. V.
Noyes, H. O.

Nutze, C. T.
Owen, S. W.
Patten, Geo. D.
Peyser, J.
Poynton, J. C.
Purdy, John
Robb, C.
Robertson, W. B.
Russell, J. H.
Slater, Isaac C.
Slater, J. S.
Small, Bruce
Stamp, M. R.
Stephens, L. G.,
D. G. H. P.

Stewart, J. C.
Stoddard, L.
Tenny, W. M.
Thompson, W. H.
Tomlinson, J. S.
Topham, J. S.
Vaux, E. P.
Walker, Geo. H.
White, J. W.
Wight, G. M.
Wilcox, E. B.
Williamson, J. B.
Wollard, J. F.
Wyvill, W. D.

REINSTATED.

Bliss, D. W.
Butt, S.

Crown, S. T.
Curtis, H. B.

Klotz, Chas.
Muldrum, J.

WITHDRAWN.

Bauer, A.
Bawsel, M.
Bartlett, J. D.
Buchly, A.
Butt, W. D.
Carr, G. W.

Coltman, R.
Fager, J. C.
Gassenheimer, L.
Goods, W. H.
Henderson, J. H. D.
Hood, J. H.

Johnson, W. H.
Lightner, H.
Lord, Wm. Blair
Smith, Chauncey
Thomson, S. John
Will, J. B.

DIED.

DeVaughan, S.
Emerich, P.

Welch, James

Whiting, Geo. C.

DROPPED FOR N. P. D.

Acker, N.
Acker, J. F.
Adams, Greene
Baker, G. G.
Brown, J. S.
Close, J. T.
Coffrau, J. W.
Dennis, J. P.
Forney, J. D.
Gladman, B. K.
Hall, G. Wm.

Jarvis, C. F.
Johnson, W. T.
Kloman, C.
Luck, Isaac, Jr.
McPherson, H. H.
Perrine, H. A.
Peterson, W.
Pierce, J. H.
Polkinhorn, H.
Powers, Geo. W.
Reily, J. R.

Reno, J. M.
Richey, John
Riley, J. S.
Roberts, J. M.
Solomon, S. N.
Scrivener, P.
Thompson, Thomas
Ulam, J. H.
VanCamp, A.
Witzleben, A. De

SUSPENDED.

Smith, James G.

Stewart, R. H.

EXPELLED.

Campbell, R. T.
Faulkner, W. H.

Perrie, C. F.

Smith, W. Morris

WASHINGTON CHAPTER, No. 2.

Meets second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

A. T. LONGLEY, M. E. H. Priest.	GEO. BOYDEN, E. King.
J. O. GOODRICH, E. Scribe.	R. H. GRAHAM, Treasurer.
C. W. DARR, Secretary.	L. STODDARD, (of No. 1,) Janitor.

PAST HIGH PRIENTS AND PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD, P. H. P. and M. E. G. H. P.
A. GLASS, P. H. P. and P. G. K.
WM. MIDDLETON, P. H. P.
J. MOODY SMITH, P. H. P.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Allen, S. E.	Craig, F. A.	Gorman, A. P.
Ackerman, M. L.	Crown, S. T.	Gaddis, Wm.
Alkins, E. A.	Clark, Geo. H.	Gaddis, Geo. H.
Abbott, A. W.	Chilos, A. F.	Gedney, J. F.
Ashley, J. R.	Campbell, R.	Griffin, E. W. W.
Ashby, John R.	Cornelius, Rev. J. W.	Green, H. M.
Bartholow, J. P.	Cowan, W. S.	Graham, R. H.
Baxter, M. C.	Cooper, Bishop	Graham, W. W.
Baldwin, Edward	Cushaw, E. L.	Gardner, Thos. I.
Belger, James	Craig, Andrew	Goggon, R. W.
Bonel, Ed.	Cropley, W. C.	Garrison, J. R.
Bond, R. V.	Curtiss, Wright	Gibson, W. F.
Blackford, W. D.	Cross, Jr., Thos. B.	Gradwahl, L.
Buckley, J. T.	Campbell, Wm. J.	Glass, Andrew
Bailey, R.	Delwig, L. A.	Goodrich, J. O.
Bogan, S. W.	Darr, Chas. W.	Hamlin, J. P.
Beekman, James	Delano, M. F.	Hawkins, W. W.
Boyden, Geo.	Dawson, J. B.	Hanson, J. G.
Burnett, D. L.	Dyre, W. W. S.	Hayes, C. W.
Blakeley, T. M.	Dell, F. C.	Hable, S. L.
Blount, A. L.	Doughty, J. H.	Hable, A.
Browning, P. W.	Ellis, H. C.	Hartz, Wilson T.
Brown, John	Earl, Chas.	Henning, A.
Bowen, E. W.	Farren, Geo.	Heenage, J. H.
Barroll, F. H.	Forbes, Darius	Higgins, H. A.
Clarke, Geo. B.	Foos, John A.	Hinds, George
Chapman, Rev. W. H.	Freeman, B.	Hirsh, M.
Campbell, T. B.	Fish, Ross A.	Hibbs, G. D. C.
Corbin, E. L.	Guild, James	Holmead, J. E. F., G. H. P.
Chapmin, H. N.	Glover, T.	Hogan, John
Cox, Jos. L.	Grossmeyer, N.	Holroyd, John

Howard, A. M.	Pearl, Marcus	Steele, Jno. M.
Hocke, Wm. H.	Petersen, A.	Tracey, Jefferson
Hunt, Hiram L.	Power, Rd.	Thorn, B. T.
Huntoon, A. J.	Porter, J. E.	Thompson, Geo. R.
Hughes, Evan	Phillips, A.	Toomb, R.
James, Clement	Pierson, H. C.	Taylor, A. S.
Johnson, W. H.	Pocock, Thomas	Tolson, A.
Kennedy, Thos.	Robertson, J.	Tyssowski, J.
Kramer, L. J.	Rogers, George L.	Varela, A. C.
Kaighn, M. M.	Roose, W. S.	Vonte, C. H.
Levy, H.	Riley, P. C.	Van Campen, S.
Leamy, John	Reissnyder, J. H.	Vandenbaugh, J. R. W.
Logan, D. J.	Reigart, J. M.	Vermillion, James
Longley, A. T.	Samuels, D.	Von Goeglengen, A.
Marks, S. A. H.	Sears, Chas. A.	Woods, Andrew
Marks, H. S.	Stock, J. G.	Williamson, James
Mason, J. M.	Scudder, Rev. Jas.	Whyte, F.
Mitchell, M. E.	Sterling, Wm. J.	Walker, Jas. T.
Morgan, Rd.	Sullivan, John J.	Wilkenson, Wm.
Moore, W. D.	Street, J. R.	Webster, J. R.
Milroy, J. H.	Schleimer, D.	Wood, Geo. W.
McElwee, Jas.	Stewart, J. A.	Wing, H. B.
McClermont, R.	Smith, Chas. B.	Wells, G. Wiley
McKim, S. A. H.	Smith, J. Moody	Winter, S. K.
Middleton, Wm., G. S.	Smith, J. M.	Wolf, Solomon
Nalley, Wm. H.	Sherman, C.	Weber, L. F. B.
Nutt, G. W.	Skerritt, W. H.	Winnemore, J. J.
Noble, H. B.	Sheriff, Geo. L.	Whitefoot, R. M.
Norton, F. A.	Slater, S. E.	Walter, Wm.
O'Rear, W. A.	Stiles, V. H.	Witherall, W. P.
O'Daniel, J. P.	Sykes, L.	Williams, E.
Orcutt, W. H.	Somerville, Thos.	

REINSTATED.

Deitdz, Wm. H.	Houston, J. B.	Newman, J. E.
Hanson, Geo. C.		

WITHDRAWN.

Collison, P. D.	Houston, J. B.	Rosenfeldt, A.
Deitdz, Wm. H.	Lawton, C. W.	Ryttenburg, I. D.
Hanson, Geo. C.	Newman, J. E.	

MT. VERNON CHAPTER, No. 3.

Meets second and fourth Mondays in each month.

OFFICERS.

HENRY A. WHALLON, M. E. H. Priest. DOLSON B. SEARLE, E. King.
 JOSEPH DANIELS, E. Scribe. NATHAN B. CLARKE, Treasurer.
 JOHN W. GRIFFIN, Secretary. LEONARD STODDARD, (of No. 1,) Janitor.

PAST HIGH PRIESTS.

JAMES STEELE. CHARLES W. HANCOCK.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Alexander, C. L.	Dawson, C.	La Fetra, G. H.
Allen, E. K.	Davy, J., Jr.	Lee, J. C. G.
Anderson, W. S.	Dorrance, O. H.	Love, R. H.
Ashdown, W. W.	Dole, S. A.	Loweree, G. E.
Ballard, Geo. C.	Doyle, J. A.	McClellan, J. O.
Bates, Geo. A.	Duren, J. A.	Meding, C. W.
Baxter, Samuel	Eastman, N.	Metcalf, F. S.
Bemis, Isaac A.	Eichler, W.	Meyer, M. J.
Brady, Chas. B.	Eldridge, W. W.	Merrill, M. L.
Brown, P. B.	Farlee, W. A.	Moore, M. M.
Brown, W. J.	Fenton, F. A.	Milburn, W. L.
Bullock, J. F.	Firmin, O. S.	Morey, E. P.
Bunce, J. R.	Fisher, Geo. P.	Niemyer, A.
Burgdorf, L.	Francis, G. W.	Nicolay, J. H.
Cameron, John	Fry, W. H.	Nordstrom, C. E.
Cate, A. B.	Garwood, S. N.	Page, Chas.
Catlin, C. L.	Giddings, E.	Partello, D. J.
Castle, D. E.	Gilbert, B. F.	Partello, W. P.
Clark, N. B.	Godfrey, E. D.	Patten, C. L.
Clarke, J. G.	Glasscott, W. H.	Patterson, J. J.
Clarke, P. M.	Goodall, G. W.	Pearson, P. W.
Clark, E. W., Jr.	Griffin, J. W.	Philp, F.
Cluss, A.	Hancock, C. W., G. K.	Piney, Geo. M.
Cooper, J. S.	Hay, W. J.	Pike, B. S.
Croggan, R. C.	Hesse, J. C.	Pratt, Geo. W.
Comstock, O. W.	Hickok, W. H.	Pickell, J. H.
Copeland, W. P.	Hoover, J. W.	Porter, G. L.
Crutchley, W. F.	Isham, L. D.	Reed, Amos
Currier, J. C.	Keasby, J. B.	Rice, Geo.
Dann, Wm.	Kimball, L. W.	Riley, Jas.
Daniels, J.	Kilbourne, E. A.	Russell, S. B.
Davis, B. F.	King, F.	Russell, J. F.
Davis, J.	Lacy, R. S.	Robertson, Wm.

Sawtelle, H. W.	Stuyvesant, G. W.	Wallace, R. B.
Searle, D. B.	Stewart, W. H.	Walker, Cyrus
Searle, H. R.	Stevenson, W. J.	Whallon, H. A.
Schurz, A. P.	Stiles, J.	Whitman, G. A.
Shelton, R. H.	Sweet, Wm. E.	White, H. A.
Shelton, C. W.	Sylvester, J. H.	Wilson, J. C.
Shepherd, C. T.	Terry, S. A.	Williams, T. J.
Sherwood, H. L.	Thompson, M.	Wilson, L. A.
Sleeper, S. A.	Tolman, L. W.	Wright, Allen
Stevens, C. C.	Tyler, W. C.	Yates, Wm. A.
Steele, Jas.		

WITHDRAWN.

Fisher, B. F.	Jones, D. S.	Munson, H. T.
Fuller, E. H.	Larner, N. D.	Munns, Wm.
Garrett, L. H.	MacGrotty, E. B.	Myers, W. C.
Garrett, W. W.	McCoy, J. S.	Palmer, O. W.
Guilford, Geo. P.	Moulton, C. H.	Short, Will. A.

REINSTATED.

Lee, J. C. G.

DIED.

Lamkin, B. Smith.

DROPPED FOR N. P. D.

Bickerton, Chas. E.	Mowbray, A. D.	Stevens, Ezra L.
Holzlander, L.	Pratt, Amos	Stagg, Peter
McLellan, G. F.	Roulet, F. G.	

EXPELLED.

Alvord, H. J.

EUREKA CHAPTER, No. 4.

Meets second and fourth Fridays in each month.


OFFICERS.

E. B. MACGROTTY, M. E. H. Priest.	A. BUCHLY, E. King.
J. D. BARTLETT, E. Scribe.	W. H. GOODS, Treasurer.
S. JNO. THOMSON, Secretary.	L. STODDARD, (of No. 1,) Janitor.

PAST HIGH PRIEST.

C. SMITH, G. Treasurer.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Abrams, A.	Gassenheimer, L.	MacGrotty, E. B.
Amiss, T. B.	Goods, W. H.	Munson, H. T.
Bartlett, J. D.	Greer, C. E.	Myers, W. C.
Boyd, W. H.	Hadaway, C.	Ridenour, U. H.
Brunner, J. L.	 Hall, J. C.	Short, Will. A.
Buchly, A.	Humphrey, R. T.	Smith, C., G. T. T.
Butt, W. B.	Johnson, W. H.	Smith, F. H.
Crump, J. E.	Johnson, I. L.	Tompson, S. J.
Curtis, W.	Johnson, A. E. H.	Winnemore, S. J.
Fowler, C. H.	Knox, J.	

WITHDRAWN.

Fager, J. C.

LA FAYETTE CHAPTER, No. 5.

Meets first and third Saturdays in each month.

OFFICERS.

N. D. LARNER, M. E. H. Priest.	J. B. WILL, E. King.
I. W. STANTON, E. Scribe.	M. E. N. HOWELL, Treasurer.
J. ED. MASON, Secretary.	L. STODDARD, (of No. 1,) Janitor.

PAST HIGH PRIEST.

N. P. CHIPMAN.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Barr, T. F.	Greer, J. R.	Pierce, D. T.
Bates, S.	Howe, E. S.	Singleton, W. R.
Brewster, H. A.	Howell, M. E. N.	Stanton, J. W.
Burnham, D. S.	Jones, D. S.	Simms, I. W.
Chipman, N. P.	Larner, N. D., G. S. S.	Smith, A. C.
Coon, C. E.	Mason, J. Ed.	Spear, C. W.
Colledge, C. B. R.	McCoy, J. S.	Transue, A.
Dickinson, G. T.	Morgan, C. G.	Will, J. B.
Fuller, E. H.	McKeever, S.	Wannall, C. P.
Gilmore, C. D.	Moulton, C. H.	Waugh, J. E.
Griffith, F. R.	Owen, F. W.	Whitney, W. H.
Grinnell, J. S.		

STATEMENT,

Showing the Numerical Condition of the several Chapters in the Jurisdiction, with the work of the past year, and amounts due and paid by each to the Grand Chapter, at the Annual Meeting, November, 1867.

Name and No. of Chapter.	No. of members per last return.			Add.		Deduct.					Present No. of members.	Rejected.	Amount due and paid by the several Chapters to the Grand Chapter.
	Exalted since.	Affiliated.	Re-instated.	Total.	Withdrawn.	Died.	Dropped.	Suspended.	Expelled.				
Columbia.....No. 1	143	27	1	177	18	4	31	2	5		117	3	\$ 90 00
Washington.....No. 2	137	51	4	196	8						188	3	194 00
Mt. Vernon.....No. 3	109	44	1	155	15	1	8		1		130	2	117 00
Eureka.....No. 4	118	11	1	130	1						29		42 50
La Fayette.....No. 5	117	16	1	134							34		57 00
	424	149	8	582	42	5	39	2	6		498	8	\$500 50

*Charter members.

APPENDIX.

*Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates to form a Grand R. A. A.
Chapter for the District of Columbia.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3, 1867.

A meeting of the Delegates appointed by Columbia Chapter, No. 15, Washington Chapter, No. 16, and Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20, to form a Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the District of Columbia, was held at Central Masonic Hall, corner of D and Ninth streets, Washington, representatives from the three Chapters above named being present.

Companion George C. Whiting was unanimously elected President, and Comp. Noble D. Larner, Secretary. Comp. J. Daniels volunteered, and acted as Janitor.

On motion, a committee, consisting of Comps. Holmead, Middleton, and Whallon, was appointed on Credentials of the Delegates, who, after consultation, submitted the following report, which was adopted, and ordered to be spread on the record :

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that they have examined the certificates of election presented, and find the following Companions duly accredited : From Columbia Chapter, No. 15, Comp. L. G. Stephens, Jno. Lockie, R. H. Boswell, G. C. Whiting, C. Smith, H. O. Noyes, J. Essex, J. H. Russell, and J. T. Brown ; from Washington Chapter, No. 16, Comp. W. Middleton, A. T. Longley, Geo. Boyden, J. E. F. Holmead, C. A. Sears, W. J. Campbell, T. B. Campbell, J. R. Garrison, and G. R. Thompson ; from Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20, Comp. G. W. Hancock, H. A. Whallon, D. B. Searle, J. Daniels, N. D. Larner, E. B. MacGrotty, J. W. Griffin, J. B. Keasby, G. A. Bates. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed.)

J. E. F. HOLMEAD,
WM. MIDDLETON,
H. A. WHALLON.

The President then stated that he had been informed that a meeting of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, had been called for Tuesday evening, the 4th inst., and suggested the propriety of the Convention adjourning until after the meeting of Potomac Chapter, for the purpose of giving them an opportunity to be represented in the Convention, whereupon, on motion of Comp. Searle, the Convention adjourned, to meet at the same place, on Saturday evening, the 6th inst., at 6½ o'clock P. M.

N. D. LARNER,

Secretary.

Proceedings of an Adjourned Meeting of the Convention of Delegates appointed by the Chapters of the District of Columbia to form a Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1867.

The Convention met at 7 o'clock P. M., at Central Masonic Hall, corner D and Ninth streets.

The President being absent, Comp L. G. Stephens was elected Vice-President, and occupied the Chair, the following delegates being present :

From Columbia Chapter, No. 15—Comp. L. G. Stephens, J. Lockie, R. H. Boswell, J. Essex, H. O. Noyes, J. T. Brown, J. H. Russell, and C. Smith.

From Washington Chapter, No. 16—Comp. W. Middleton, A. T. Longley, Geo. Boyden, C. A. Sears, W. J. Campbell, J. R. Garrison, G. R. Thompson, J. E. F. Holmead, and T. B. Campbell.

From Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20—Comp. C. W. Hancock, H. A. Whallon, D. B. Searle, J. Daniels, N. D. Larner, E. B. MacGrotty, J. W. Griffin, J. B. Keasby, and G. A. Bates.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Comp. Larner submitted a draft for the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of the D. C., which, on motion, was referred to a committee consisting of Comp. Holmead, Lockie, and Daniels.

The Convention then took a recess to await the report of the committee.

The Convention being called to order, the Committee on Credentials reported that the following named Companions had presented credentials as delegates from Potomac Chapter, No. 8, and moved that the Companions be received as such ; which was agreed to, as follows : Comp. E. B. Barrett, A. H. Pickrell, W. H. Birch, J. Goszler, Jos. Libbey, T. Dowling, A. Roche, R. L. Cropley, and A. J. Jones.

Comp. Pickrell being absent, Comp. J. S. Berry was present as his proxy.

Comp. Holmead moved that each delegation be allowed to fill vacancies in their respective delegations ; which motion was disagreed to.

Comp. Holmead, from the Committee to whom had been referred the Constitution, reported that they had had the same under consideration, and reported the same back with such amendments as they deemed necessary.

The report was then read.

Comp. J. T. Brown moved that fifty copies of the report be printed, and the consideration of the same be postponed for one week. *Lost.*

After a very general expression of opinion, and the adoption of several amendments, the Constitution was adopted.

Comp. Goszler, in a few remarks, urged that it was necessary for the Convention to obtain the consent of one of the first four officers of G. . Grand Chapter to the formation of a G. . C. . in the D. C., before it could be done, when, on motion, it was decided that, in the opinion of the Convention, the consent of either of the Grand Officers referred to was not necessary.

Comp. Searle moved that the Convention proceed to the election of officers for the Grand Chapter.

Comp. Libbey moved to postpone the election for two weeks. Lost.

The motion of Comp. Searle was then agreed to, and the Convention proceeded to the election (Comp. Daniels and Middleton acting as Tellers) of officers, with the following result: Comp. J. E. F. Holmead, G. . H. . P. .; Comp. L. G. Stephens, D. . G. . H. . P. .; Comp. C. W. Hancock, G. . K. .; Comp. E. B. Barrett, G. . S. .; Comp. C. Smith, G. . T. .; Comp. G. C. Whiting, G. . S. .; and Comp. W. Middleton, G. . C. . H. .

The election of G. . Chaplain was postponed.

Comp. Barrett declined serving as G. . S. . but the Convention refused to accept his declension.

On motion, a committee, consisting of Comps. Whiting, Middleton, Lockie, Jones, and Larnier, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for constituting the Grand Chapter and installing the Grand Officers, with instructions to invite Comp. Mackey, of S. C., to be present, and perform the ceremonies.

On motion of Comp. Lockie, the Chapters in the District were requested to be represented in the G. . C. . of Maryland and the District of Columbia at its next convocation.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to notify the Chapters in the District of the formation of the Grand Chapter.

The Convention then adjourned to meet at the call of the Committee of Arrangements.

N. D. LARNER,

Secretary.

Proceedings of a Called Meeting of the Convention of Delegates appointed by the Chapters of the District of Columbia to form a Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

WASHINGTON, April 20, 1867.

The Convention met at 7½ o'clock P. M., the President in the Chair, and the following delegates were present:

L. G. Stephens, Lockie, Russell, Essex, Whiting, C. Smith, Noyes, Brown, Middleton, Longley, Boyden, Holmead, Garrison, W. J. Campbell, Sears, T. B. Campbell, Hancock, Searle, Daniels, Larner, MacGrotty, Griffin, and Keasby.

The minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved.

The following communication was received from Potomac Chapter, No. 8:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF POTOMAC R. A. CHAPTER, No. 8,
GEORGETOWN, D. C., *April 16, 1867.*

NOBLE D. LARNER, Esq.

COMP.—I have been instructed by Potomac Chapter, No. 8, to notify you, as Secretary of the Convention of R. A. Masons of Washington, D. C., that Potomac Chapter declines sending delegates to the meeting of said Convention, to be held on Saturday evening next.

Fraternally yours,

SAMUEL F. PRIMROSE,

[SEAL.]

Secretary Potomac R. A. Chapter, No. 8.

The President stated that he had called the Convention together for the purpose of considering the question as to whether it was necessary, under the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, to obtain the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter to the formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia, not being aware that the question had been considered, and decided in the negative at previous meeting.

This question having been decided in the negative by the Convention at its last meeting, Comp. Holmead moved (for the purpose of hearing the views of the President, and such other Companions as might wish to be heard on the question,) that the vote by which the Convention decided that the consent of one of the officers above referred to was not necessary, be reconsidered; which was agreed to.

Comp. Searle moved, as a sense of the Convention, that the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter was not necessary to the legally forming of a Grand R. A. Chapter in the District of Columbia, which motion, after a very full discussion, was adopted by the following vote:

AYES—Comp. Stephens, Lockie, Russell, Essex, Holmead, Brown, Keasby, Garrison, Boyden, T. B. Campbell, Middleton, MacGrotty, Hancock, Griffin, Daniels, Searle, C. Smith, Noyes, W. J. Campbell, Sears, Longley, and Larner.

NAY—Comp. Whiting.

No further business appearing, the Convention adjourned.

N. D. LARNER,

Secretary.

Proceedings of a Called Meeting of the Delegates appointed by the Chapters to form a Grand R. A. Chapter for the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, May 22, 1867.

The Convention met at the call of the President, on Wednesday evening, the 22d, at 7 o'clock, at Central Masonic Hall, corner of D and Ninth streets, Comp. Whiting, President, in the Chair. Representatives from Nos 15, 16, and 20 being present; M. E. Comp. A. G. Mackey, P. G. G. High Priest of the United States, also being present.

The proceedings of preceding meeting were read and approved.

Comp. Whiting announced to the Convention that it would be impossible for him, owing to his business engagements, to attend to the duties of Grand Secretary, to which he had been elected by the Convention, and declined the same, whereupon the Convention proceeded to the election of a Grand Secretary, which resulted in the election of Comp. Noble D. Larner.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of a Rev. Grand Chaplain, which resulted in the election of Comp. Rev. Chas. H. Hall.

Comp. Griffin moved that the resignation of Comp. Barrett as Grand Scribe, tendered at a previous meeting, be accepted; which was disagreed to.

Comp. Whiting, in a few remarks, congratulated the Convention upon the success of their efforts to form a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia, and the perfect harmony that had prevailed throughout its deliberation.

After a few remarks by M. E. Comp. Mackey, the Convention adjourned.

N. D. LARNER,
Secretary.

CEREMONIES
ON THE OCCASION OF
CONSTITUTING
THE
Grand R. A. Chapter
AND THE
INSTALLATION OF THE GRAND OFFICERS,
TOGETHER WITH THE
Inaugural Address of the G. H. Priest,
J. E. F. HOLMEAD,
May 23d, 1867.

Ordered to be published by the Grand R. A. Chapter
of the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
GIBSON BROTHERS, PRINTERS.
1867.

PROCEEDINGS.

THE Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia having been dissolved by vote of said Grand Chapter, the Chapters in the District of Columbia assembled, by delegates duly appointed by said Chapters, and formed the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia—the following Chapters being represented in the Convention, viz: Potomac Chapter, No. 8; Columbia Chapter, No. 15; Washington Chapter, No. 11; and Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 20.

The Convention, having perfected all the arrangements for the organization of the Grand Chapter, appointed Thursday, May 23, 1867, as the time, and Wall's Opera House, in the City of Washington, as the place for the constituting of the Grand Chapter and the installing of the Grand Officers.

Upon the day appointed, the Grand Lodge of F. . A. . M. . of the District of Columbia, together with the constituent Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies of K. . T. . of the District of Columbia, assembled at Central Masonic Hall, at 5 o'clock P. M., and were formed in procession under the order of Bro. W. H. ORCUTT, Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, and took up a line of march through some of the principal streets of the City, and arrived at Wall's Opera House at 8 o'clock, when the meeting was called to order by M. . W. . GEO. C. WHITING, G. . M. . of Masons of the District of Columbia, who stated the object which had brought them together, and introduced Bro. J. N. COOMBS, Grand Chaplain of the District of Columbia, who offered an appropriate prayer to the great I AM. After music by the Masonic Choir of the District of Columbia, M. . W. . Bro. WHITING, introduced M. . E. . Companion ALBERT G. MACKAY, P. . G. . G. . High Priest of the United States, who delivered a very instructive address upon the Symbolism of Masonry. Upon the conclusion of his address, Comp. MACKAY announced that he was prepared to enter upon the discharge of the duty assigned him of installing the Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, when P. . G. . H. . Priest Comp. B. B. FRENCH, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, introduced M. . E. . Companion J. E. F. HOLMEAD, G. . H. . P. . elect, for installation. M. . E. . Companion HOLMEAD, having been duly installed as Grand High Priest, delivered the following inaugural address:

M. E. Sir, Companions, Brethren, and Sir Knights:

Disraeli has said: "The aruspex, the auger, and the astrologer, have vanished with their own superstitions, but the moral and the political predictor, proceeding on principles authorized by nature and experience, has become more skilful in his observations on the phenomena of human history; and it has often happened that a tolerable philosopher has not made an indifferent prophet."

While I make no claim to be considered even a "tolerable philosopher," yet I am willing, looking toward the future with intenseness of thought and feeling, to run all risks of being adjudged even less than an "indifferent prophet" when I predict that the event, which to-night we inaugurate, upon the future page of the keeper of masonic records, shall be written and emblazoned, as in times of old were heraldic achievements, with an eclat of surpassing greatness and grandeur.

We hold that we over-estimate not the importance and dignity of the event when we say that here, in the metropolis of the nation, a crisis has been reached, indicated by the imposing and solemn ceremonial through which we have passed, which tells, not only that the incubus, which had well nigh drawn out the last life breath of Capitular Masonry, had been dislodged; but, that in its stead life and light had come, imparting through all the various channels of the craft, new haleness and fresh hopes to cheer the hitherto desponding and despairing hearts of those whose faith had taught them, while making the estimate of the phenomena of daily developments, that the age in which we live *is the age of progress—of mental, moral, and religious progress*. And all this we say, maugre the discontents of those whose eyes look not beyond the horizon inscribed by the hand of the past, as though there lay not before us a vast future, within whose folds are gathered the rich accumulation of all the ages past, the experience and the wisdom of the wise, the great, and the good.

But we ask with emphasis, why should not, in this destined to be the great city of the nation, the masonic order keep step, *pari passu*, with all things else in the onward march? Enterprise and adventure are, as never before within our limits, upon the alert. The achievements of progress in every department of all that is to be admired, excellent and good, are rapidly coming up before our eyes, filling us with wonder and amazement that so long the city's undisturbed sleep has been, while all around and within her lay materials rich and rare, ready at the bidding to leap to their places, that monuments might be reared, not only to note the past, but to tell to coming times how noble the impulse for good, which in our day and generation, hath taken possession of the hearts of our people.

In every street, at every crossing, through all our broad avenues, along all our public reservations, the giant hand and arm and heart of improvement are with magic quickness doing their mighty works. And in the moral and religious world even more, in a single day, has been accomplished than in the past score of years.

Societies, large and firmly based, for the development of all that is good and noble in man, have been organized, and embrace within their rolls the names of our wealthiest, wisest, and best citizens.

Churches and congregations have well nigh doubled themselves in number, strength, and power. The whole atmosphere seems laden with the behests, as we breathe it, of a divine inspiration, which recalls the words of the commander of God's people of old, when emerging from Egypt's ignorance, superstition, darkness, and bondage—"Speak to the people that they go forward."

And as men, as Christians, as Masons, while all else is being marshalled and is moving, shall we alone be passive, sleep on, dream on; shall inertness, lethargy, aye, more and worse than the sluggard sloth, be the deformed, the debased idol of our eyes and hearts as we sit and gaze upon the countless processions as they pass with quick but solid step and nerved hearts for deeds of "noble daring?" No, let us move on—our ensign lift as high—our escutcheon be as blazing bright—our phalanx, as Masons, as well drilled and formed and solid as the eye may rest upon or the mind contemplate, for in God's good providence, in the order of the world's onward march for greatness, nobleness, and goodness, our position as Masons is, and should be, next to that which, without parallel, stands foremost—the church of our Lord. And were it given unto me to make the inscription upon all our banners, I would but write these few and simple words—

"Turpe est relinqui."

"'Tis base to be left behind."

In the discussion upon which we propose to enter, I preface by saying, in that which shall follow, reference must be made, many times, to the Gen'l G. C. of the U. S. Therefore, I take this early occasion to say, that as there is no disposition, so there shall be no word designedly uttered, the tendency of which shall be the impairment of the integrity, dignity, or acknowledged supremacy of that noble institution of Free Masons.

We shall at all times be prepared, as now we are to bow to its mandates of authority, whenever in this, as in all other regards, they shall come to us, with a willing submission.

And if we have seemed, in the premises of our movements, to withhold all appeal to the G. G. C., it was not that in any way or degree we sought avoidance of its authority, but because, simply and alone, we did not apprehend the issue demanded or required an appeal in the settlement or adjustment of the questions with which we were concerned.

We thought it better rather to be guided and governed by clear and well-defined principles and decisions, already established, than to create precedents by an appeal which, in the future, might have the proneness to engender doubts and produce confusion—more especially as the effort has been, as was known to every Mason in the jurisdiction, to force us before the G. G. C. for the purpose, seemingly at least, of producing delay, harassing, and chafing the friends of the movement of separation from the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

With regard to the jurisdiction, as an inherent power of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, already much that is problematical and perplexing exists, and so divergent are the formulæ by which, in various States, Chapter work is regulated, that one scarce knows when

and how an appeal should be made. The lament is, that there exists no well-defined and regulated system of jurisdiction on the part of the General Grand Chapter. In the case we have in hand, the semblance of a duty to appeal to the General Grand Chapter is urged by the "handful" of our companions against the conviction of more than 500 Royal Arch Masons among us, which conviction was and is that the question of separation from the grand Chapter of Maryland by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia belongs in nowise to the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

But, it may be asked, what necessity exists for a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia? and how shall Capitular Masonry be advantaged by the erection of a Grand Chapter? Why this inordinate desire for separation from Maryland? These and like questions have been asked again and again by those who have opposed separation, and the coming in of events, which to-night have been so auspiciously inaugurated. And, although time and again answers have been given, still they are asked, no matter how well, clear, and to the point the querist has received the response. Once again we will essay the answering of the questions propounded, and set forth the causes which have led to the separation.

First of all, it is hardly conceivable how it should have escaped the attention or observation of the most simple minded and least informed among us, that, while not in an independent condition, the Masonic work in any jurisdiction must be incomplete, if not positively imperfect. And this especially is the case where an alliance or conjunction is formed between two jurisdictions, in each of which grand lodges exist, but where irreconcilable discrepancies and differences also exist as to work in said grand lodges.

The District of Columbia is designated, definitely, by political and geographical boundary lines. Now, we hold the entire work of the "Ancient Craft," within the District, that it "may be designated in wisdom, established in strength, and perfected in beauty," should be wrought within the limits of the well-defined, political and geographical boundaries of the District of Columbia, and not commingled or mixed up with the workings of the "Craft" in Maryland.

In other words, that our grand Masonic Temple here in this District, having gained for itself a "good degree" in name and character, and hereafter and from henceforth to be known and acknowledged, as we humbly trust and hope, a grand centre of Masonic work and influence, should be supported and decorated by the Royal Arch of Capitular Masonry, erected, constituted, and ordained here in this city, the metropolis of the District, and not in Baltimore, a city of Maryland. It seems to us there would be as much display and no more of wisdom and propriety of having the Royal Temple in part *here*, its foundations and walls, and its *upper, loftier* work and finish in Baltimore, as, for the purpose of making the noble edifice complete in design and structure, *our Capitol*, the admiration of the world, should you remove its dome of vastness, grandeur, and sublimity, and set it down amid the streets and lanes of Baltimore, leaving for us here alone the foundation walls and columns of the mighty edifice. That the jurisdiction should be inde-

pendent here in all matters belonging to the "craft" is asserted again, from the fact that here we have the "Grand Lodge" of the District of Columbia, in a degree elevated with "beauty," "strength," and "order," embracing over twenty-five hundred Free and Accepted Masons, with sixteen flourishing Lodges and three Chapters in full and working order, and two others already formed, since the announcement of the separation from Maryland. Why, in the name of the common sense of any man, I ask, should we be held in bondage, be *vassal* to Maryland? Why dishonor ourselves? Why disrobe ourselves of dignities, immunities, and privileges, the beauty and grandeur of the "craft" the world over, by submitting to an order of things which fastens upon us chains, instead of giving us the privilege to work as independent members of the craft—to win its rewards and wear its honors?

Again, look at the confusion which inevitably results from this unnatural alliance with Maryland. The Grand Lodge work, precedents, and principles which govern Capitular Masonry in Maryland are wholly unlike the Grand Lodge work, precedents, and principles, in many cases, of the District of Columbia, to which jurisdiction we belong, and to which, as District of Columbia Masons, we gladly submit.

On the part of the Masons of this jurisdiction there exists not only a positive distaste for, but a sincere disapproval of the work done in the jurisdiction of Maryland, in many of its features.

And yet, when we enter the Grand Chapter of Maryland, as Washington Masons, we are obliged to leave behind us all our tastes, feelings, and judgment. It mattered not what might be the cast or complexion of the questions or subjects introduced and discussed in the Grand Chapter of Maryland—if ever decisions had been made in Maryland, these were binding upon us—by the authority of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, no matter how widely differing from all precedents and decisions met with elsewhere—no matter how remote from all our notions and ideas of Masonic law and custom—no matter how unsanctioned by general usage—no matter how unsupported by universal custom—all, all, was unavailing that could be said or offered by way of modifying strange and unnatural precedents, and more strange and unlawful decisions.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland had uttered her "dictum," and that was deemed enough to satisfy the demands of all other jurisdictions.

A single instance will be sufficient for the present to shed light upon the way in which decisions are reached and promulgated as law in the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

At the last special convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, the question came up as to what vote was required to reinstate the Companions who stood suspended, the Grand Chapter having sustained the edict of suspension fulminated by the Grand High Priest. We were told the vote must be *unanimous*, and that the suspended Companions would have to be *balloted* for, and that a *single black ball* would be *final*.

In reply, it was argued that the Grand High Priest had been sustained in his edict of *suspension* by a *viva voce* vote, and by a *bare majority* at that, which alone gave force to his act, after the meeting of the Grand Chapter, he assuming the right and power only to suspend till the Grand

Chapter should convene. And that, after the Chapter should meet, a like vote could remove all disabilities resting upon *suspended* companions. This was denied.

Again, it was asked that some authority might be produced which should affirm that at least a two-thirds vote could not reinstate a suspended Companion. No such authority was forthcoming, save only this fact was stated, that at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of Maryland it was ordained and declared as law Masonic. We Masons of this jurisdiction had no say in the matter of this law which was enacted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, communicated to us by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, although we stood as suspended companions before the bar of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, awaiting the decision of a tribunal to which, by our union therewith, we owed subjection; but in the administration of the justice of which we never had say, and whose decision, under the enactment of a law so at variance with the dictates of the plainest usage, not to say more than this, might have consigned us to irreparable wrong and ruin.

We know that the law of Blue Masonry is the law of Capitular Masonry; and that all our ideas of what is right and proper and Masonic, it matters not whether pertaining to law or custom, are derived mainly from the working of the Grand Lodge of our own jurisdiction, in the District of Columbia. Was it unnatural, therefore, while under sentence of suspension, was it not but right and just, forming as we did a part of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, that we should have asked that we should have in any decision which might be rendered the advantage of the protection afforded by the laws and customs of our own jurisdiction, supported as they are by universal practice? especially since the affiliated R. A. Masons in the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia outnumbered the affiliated Masons of Maryland; and into the treasury of the Grand Chapter of Maryland we annually paid more money than they of Maryland. That we did earnestly desire the formation of a Grand Chapter here, within the limits of our own jurisdiction, we make no denial by way of evasion. That we meant to assume all the responsibilities of such a movement is alike confessed. That a meeting was called of the companions of the District jurisdiction is also freely and fully admitted; and that in the good Providence of God we have compassed our aim and end, the solemnities of this occasion equally attest.

Having so far adverted to the considerations which operated upon the minds of the companions of the District, and which led to the desire and purpose to erect a Grand Chapter here, I shall now refer to the obstacles and trials through which we were called to pass, ere the desire of our minds and hearts could be accomplished.

In the narration of the history of the movement of the separation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia from the Grand Chapter of Maryland, over much I would willingly draw the veil of oblivion, did I dare so to do, and bury away from human eyes the record of the inflictions with which we were visited by those whose good or bad fortune it was to be in authority in the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia. I am free to confess my tastes do not lead, have

never led me to admire or engage in conflicts, except at the bidding of the sternest necessity, where crimination and recrimination are measurably to be the weapons, and especially, when the fair field of Masonry is to be the scene of the battling, for it tells in language not to be misunderstood, that harmony, the pure spirit of which should ever preside over our deliberations has been dethroned to give place to some demom, the creation of our baser passions, and whose very presence should ever fill us with disgust and abhorrence.

But the issue has been driven upon us, and did we not meet it unflinchingly, and not sparingly, yielding to the dictates of a broad charity, false should I be to this movement; false to you, my companions; false to myself; false to the high and exalted position to which your kindnesses have called me, and last though not least to those cardinal principles of the order—truth and justice.

The late Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia has passed upon the "movement" and made up the record, which proclaims to the world that the edict of March 12 was conceived and sent forth rightfully and justly; that the Royal Arch Masons, members of Chapters Nos. 15, 16, and 20 were becomingly and legitimately deprived of all chapter rights and privileges; that the G. H. P. had transgressed not the limits of his duty in demanding the return of said Chapters' charters; that he possessed the power, and righteously exercised it while suspending fourteen of the fifteen elective offices, without charges or specifications, without trial, without a hearing, apart from all defence, without the asking of a question of said Chapters as to motives, principles, or purposes, governing them in their contemplated movement, and shutting them off from the liberty of appeal.

Would that we could pause here in the recital of the wrongs, as we deem them, perpetrated by the disregard of law, the abuse of authority, the crushing down of safeguards, the havoc of the protective rights and privileges of every, even the humblest, Mason in the land. But we cannot; we dare not; the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia have set, furthermore, sanction and seal to the edict of the G. H. P., in which we were publicly, through the city papers, denounced as "contumacious," possessed with the "spirit of rebellion;" our contemplated movement branded as an "act of insubordination," the result of the "destructive and disorganizing influences of a few," "our charters suspended," "elective offices suspended from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons," and that any "act of an assembly of Royal Arch Masons, members of said three chapters, or either of them, in their capacity as Royal Arch Masons, is, and will be illegal and clandestine." We have thus quoted the language of the edict of the G. H. P., lest we may be chargeable with a wanton perversion of its style and import in our denunciations of it.

The G. H. P., in his missive to the Chapters and the public, speaks simply of "notices" having "been issued and circulated," which called out the grand embodiment of his supreme power and authority by way of edict. Why this general dealing with the subject? Why were not these "notices" specified? Why was the language of said "notices"

not given in his edict to the Chapters and the world? Did he design that the chapters, and especially Royal Arch Masons everywhere the world over, should be left to draw inferences of our wrong-doing and guilt, not from the "notices" themselves, which were carefully suppressed, but from the edict put forth by him? Had the "notices" been prefixed to the edict, we should have been more content.

Now, what was the grand offence perpetrated in those "notices" by the companions of the Chapters which were suspended by the edict of the G. H. P.? The notice here follows:

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1867.

COMPANION: You are hereby notified that a special convocation of Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 16, will be held on Saturday evening, March 16, at 7 o'clock, in convention with Nos. 15 and 20, at Central Masonic Hall, for the purpose of forming a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia. You are requested to be present.

By order of the M. E. H. P.

_____, Secretary.

What was there in this "notice" which became so alarming to the G. H. P. as to cause him to offer his protection "to all who respect the obligations they have assumed against the destructive and disorganizing influence of a few," for the time being—the total annihilation of the Chapters? Through what jaundiced media did he look that in a notice so plain and harmless he should discover evil genii of such vast and fiendish proportions as to require the extinguishment of the Chapters, least ruin and destruction to the craft be begotten. Perhaps, he may have been misled by the finding in said notice the word "formation." Forsooth, he may have fancied, that by the use of such word, at the contemplated meeting of the chapters called, it was the intention of somebody *at once to meet, form a grand chapter for the District of Columbia, elect and instal its officers*, and before the rising of a another sun to present it as a Grand Chapter complete in all its organization, and in antagonism to the G. C. of M. and D. of C., of which he happened to be G. H. P.

Now, had this all been done, there might have been some semblance or show of reason for such a stretch of power as we think was put forth.

Had the G. H. P. consulted the first lexicon he might lay his hand upon, and especially the "great unabridged," he would have discovered that the word formation, which we apprehend contained the "bug-bear" of his vision, means something else than *to begin, carry on, and perfect at a single meeting* the "formation" of anything about which it may be used. It comprehends the consideration of the *ways and means* and the materials and agencies out of which and by which the thing is to be formed.

The "notices" of which he speaks had reference to all of these materials and agencies. It was one of intended fraternal character for the free and full intercourse of companions, and the free and full interchange of opinions and feelings for the purpose of the forming of a G. C. of the D. of C. Had no interruptions been met with the whole matter of our connection with the Maryland G. C. would have been peaceably and amiably discussed, our duties and obligations resulting therefrom, the

strength and hope of the companions desiring release from Maryland, together with the various matter incident to the contemplated change.

Will it be said by any rational man that such a gathering is "contumacious," actuated by "a spirit of rebellion," "illegal" and "clandestine," and that the punishment for which shall be deprivation of "charters," the suspension of "elected" officers from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, and all this, as I have said, without preliminary investigation, without charges and specifications, without the right of defence or explanation, and the crowning act of all, the denial of even the right of appeal, and all this by the dictum of *one man* against the judgment of five hundred Royal Arch Masons?

We venture to affirm, in the appeal which may be made to the Sisterhood of G. C. throughout the nation, we shall have sympathies and judgments in our behoof which shall more than compensate us for the injuries and defamations and trials we have borne. But the catalogue of all the mischiefs intended us has not yet been completed.

During the past ten years at all times a large majority of the Companions of this District have been earnest and sincere in their desires for the establishment of a Grand Chapter in this jurisdiction; and, strange as it may appear, those who, years ago, when we were comparatively without strength, urged the propriety of the movement, now, when we are strong, bitterly oppose the measure and denounce its friends in no measured terms.

Why this strange and singular inconsistency? This question I flatter myself I could readily answer, but I will not, preferring to leave it with each companion to answer for himself, feeling confident that all honest minds must inevitably reach the conclusion at which I have arrived in the premises. At the annual convocation of the G. C. of M. and D. of C., 1865, a resolution was passed compelling us to confer the degrees in a manner different from that which had ever heretofore been the practice, either in the District or in Maryland. The representatives from our chapters opposed earnestly the proposed change, but their antagonism availed nothing. Why? Simply because the Grand Lodge of Maryland had declared that their rule and order should be adopted in regard to Blue Masonry, and the companions from Maryland believing the same to be right, compelled the G. C. to adopt a similar rule, and this in the teeth of the uniform practice of nearly three-quarters of a century, another illustration of the fact that we, of the District, as Capitular Masons, were governed entirely by laws emanating from the G. L. of Maryland.

Of course we yielded submission and obeyed, as was our duty, the "edict" of the G. C., and thus nightly, as Masons, were put in the ridiculous position of witnessing, in the constituent lodges working under our G. L., practices which were declared in our own chapters working under Maryland unmasonic, our lodges deriving their rule from our own G. L., our chapters from the G. L. of Maryland, through the ever-willing medium of the G. C. of Maryland and District of Columbia. Is it strange we desired a separation? At the last convocation of the G. C., an effort was made to repeal the resolution above referred to,

which was to us so obnoxious, but the effort signally failed—of course it failed; the G. L. of Maryland had not changed its position, and why should the Grand Chapter change; nor do I for a moment blame the Maryland companions for the tenacity with which they adhere to the impressions derived from their own Grand Lodge.

It is precisely what we of this District seek to be able to do, *i. e.*, if as Capitular Masons we are to be governed by law emanating from a Grand Lodge, let it be our own Grand Lodge. Is this an unnatural request? Certainly it cannot be so charged.

But it was denied that the Washington representatives properly represented the sentiment of Capitular Masonry in this District in asking a separation, and so their request was postponed, and a resolution was adopted asking that the chapters in the District inform the Grand Chapter whether or not they really favored a separation. Their answer was of course in the affirmative, and nearly unanimous. Thus our representatives were triumphantly sustained in the course adopted by them, and that, too, in the face of a bitter opposition, led by the M. E. Grand High Priest, he, in a Chapter of which he was not a member, using his entire influence, as well as the influence of his position, in urging the companions to refrain from expressing any opinion, although the Grand Chapter itself had sought the information.

But believing we were right, we acted accordingly. After the question had once been publicly discussed, the feeling became so strong and intense, the High Priests of our three Chapters issued notices similar to the one quoted.

Thence began the persecution; and we find that, notwithstanding the memorable "edict" of March 12, the "clandestine" meeting, as it was stigmatized, was held agreeably to the "notices," and was by far the largest congregation of Royal Arch Masons ever assembled in the jurisdiction. Did the Grand High Priest consider it "clandestine," as he had denounced it three days before? Let his own acts answer. He sought a companion who, for ability and influence, stood peerless in this jurisdiction, and requested him to attend this "clandestine meeting," promising, if a resolution was passed asking him to convene the Grand Chapter, that he would do so, and that, too, within ten days, to consider the subject of separation. It may be asked, did the Grand High Priest really urge a companion to be present at and endeavor to control the proceedings of his declared "clandestine meeting?" Even so.

But more than this, he promptly redeemed his promise, and in obedience to the bidding of our "clandestine meeting" convened the Grand Chapter, and did what? why declared himself the friend of separation! A word in reference to the meeting. Not a single companion present was so foolishly ignorant as to believe, that a *mass meeting* could legally and constitutionally form a grand body of either Symbolic or Capitular Masonry; we all were too familiar with the history of the abortive attempt to form the first Grand Lodge of Michigan to so absurdly blunder.

Our primary object in calling this convention was to obtain a full and free expression of opinion, as I have stated. I am free to admit that

our ulterior object was the formation of a Grand Chapter, with or without the consent of Maryland. We did not then, I do not now believe, by any law, (save and except the law of courtesy, obedience to which is always pleasant,) of the Gen'l Grand Chapter, or any other Grand Chapter, that Maryland had anything to do with the question.

It is preposterous to suppose, that the action of the Gen'l Grand Chapter, in placing the District Chapters under the control so the Grand Chapter of Maryland was to continue for all time, and that unless Maryland saw fit to relinquish her jurisdiction we were to be forever debarred the privilege of having a Grand Chapter of our own in this District, free from foreign influences

Does any one pretend that the Gen'l Grand Chapter has the power to link together two distinct and independent jurisdictions, as are Maryland and the District of Columbia, in such a manner that neither can withdraw without the consent of the other. No such law can be found in its constitution; no such precedent exists in its history. And, it distinctly asserts, that it exercises no "doubtful powers;" therefore, I assert, that no action of the Gen'l Grand Chapter did or could deny not only the constitutional but the inherent right which is vested in three Chapters in any jurisdiction unoccupied by a Grand Chapter to form one therein. Any assumption to the contrary is in direct violation of the law, and does gross violence to the spirit of Masonry in this country at least. As an *act of courtesy*, therefore, we asked the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, that Grand Body being convened in special convocation for that purpose, notwithstanding the Grand High Priest had informed the High Priest of one of our Chapters, as well as other companions, that the subject of a separation should not be considered even at the annual meeting in November next.

Why? Because he said it would be discourteous for the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia to act in the premises until the General Grand Chapter had granted its permission and expressed its approval. How can the Grand High Priest reconcile and justify, with his ideas of propriety, the recent act of discourtesy to the General Grand Chapter, as embodied in the resolution, which passed, almost unanimously, in favor of separation by the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, of which he was Grand High Priest; and all, too, at the bidding of a "contumacious" and "rebellious" set, acting through the agency of a "clandestine meeting;" nor was this, the seeking permission of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, the only act of courtesy the friends of this movement have exhibited, and that, too, in the face of an opposition unprecedented in the annals of Masonry. Without any offence committed, the Grand High Priest demands the return of three charters; and they are immediately returned. From whence comes his power to withdraw charters? I admit he may suspend, for cause, the functions of a chapter. I deny the power is his to withdraw a charter.

When remonstrated kindly with, and told that he was clothed with no such power, and that its exercise was a usurpation, he asserted that the power was his, stating that in the interim between the meetings of the

Grand Chapter, all the vast and supreme authority of that Grand Body was vested in him. This assumption is too violent to combat with argument, or even to receive serious consideration; but, for the sake of argument, let us for a moment admit its truth, and still his position is no more tenable than before. Why? Simply because no masonic body, I care not if it be grand or constituent, has the right to suspend me or any other Mason without charges, trial, and hearing. It may, perhaps, be different in Maryland; and without really knowing, I imagine it must be so, as the Maryland companions sustained the Grand High Priest in his course, and their opinions are all derived from their own Grand Lodge.

But to return to our "clandestine meeting." After the resolution was passed asking the G. H. P. to convene the G. C., we suddenly find this officer powerless, for he declared he would willingly revoke his edict, return the charters, and restore the companions had he the power; but believing he had not, *and as he could not exercise "doubtful powers,"* he could not so act. He could withdraw charters and suspend companions because he imagined an offence was about to be committed, but when he made the discovery that no offence existed he had not the power to return the charters and reinstate the companions. Thus we see a chief officer, who has exercised powers unheard of, hesitating, and denying even his ability simply to undo his own unconstitutional act.

Article one, section two, of the constitution of the G. C. of Md. and D. C. declares: "No companion can be an officer or member of the G. C. unless he be at the same time a member of some subordinate Chapter." Under this article he declared that a P. H. P. of Columbia Chapter, No. 15, had not the right to vote, that chapter having no charter, (the same having been returned in obedience to his edict,) and therefore not entitled to representation, but still, although he belonged to the same defunct Chapter, he had a perfect right to preside over and control the action of the G. C. How he reconciled his rulling with his action I will leave it for others to decide; I confess my entire inability, remarking simply how true is the trite old saying, "Oh, consistency, thou art indeed a jewel!"

Now, what are the powers of a Grand High Priest? I can answer this question best by quoting the resolution reported by the committee of the G. G. C. of the U. S., and adopted in 1853. The original was offered by the present truly eminent G. G. H. P.:

Resolved, That the officers of State Grand Chapters possess no power, incidental or otherwise, except such as are expressly conferred by the constitutions of State Grand Chapters or of the G. G. C., or by their express authority otherwise given.

This chart is full, clear, and explicit.

I have profound respect for law, and am truly loyal to the G. G. C., and whenever it speaks in clear and unmistakable tones, as in the above resolution, it is my duty, as it will ever be my pleasure, cheerfully to obey; but I don't see in this recital of the duties of G. H. P. any authority, certainly without an offence committed, to demand the return of a charter or to suspend an individual companion without a hearing by the G. H. P.

After the special convocation of the 26th and 27th of March, at which by a unanimous vote the charters were returned, and the "suspended" officers reinstated, and the resolution having passed with such singular unanimity in favor of separation, we had hoped that the Chapters of the District would be permitted peaceably to perfect their work and organize a Grand Chapter without further molestation. But in this we were deceived. The delegates of the several chapters met in convention April 11 and formed a constitution, elected the officers, and did all that was necessary to the proper formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia. The convention, after a full and frank expression of opinion, and a free interchange of views, decided, with scarcely a dissenting vote, that the consent of one of the first four officers was not necessary.

Our opponents, with alertness, seized upon this pretext to renew their opposition. We were threatened with the withdrawal of the consent already given by the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia. We were told that we would not be recognized by the General Grand Chapter or any other Grand Chapter, and to such an extent did they proceed in their efforts to intimidate, that we were told unless we hearkened to them that *our charters would again be withdrawn*. All this passed unheeded by us, well knowing, as we did, that the wish was simply father to the thought.

We knew we were honest and conscientious, and flattered ourselves that we had sufficient intelligence to understand the plain and clear provision of the General Grand Chapter constitution bearing on the subject. And having not rashly, but after mature deliberation and reflection, assumed the position, that consent of one of the first officers was unnecessary, we determined unflinchingly to maintain our stand, be the consequences what they might. In order clearly to state the reasons which governed us in declining to ask the consent alluded to, a slight digression is necessary.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia was formed about 1814, and was acknowledged by the General Grand Chapter in 1816. These dates are important, from this fact, that they show that until 1816 the General Grand Chapter exercised no control whatever as a Grand Body over either the territory of Maryland or the District of Columbia, and then only such control as is exercised over States and Territories occupied by State Grand Chapters. It is a great pity for Royal Arch Masonry that it ever recognized a Grand Chapter claiming jurisdiction over two independent jurisdictions. It never could have been considered a natural union, or why did they insert in the original constitution of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia a clause that a Grand Chapter should not be formed in either jurisdiction without the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

How absurd it would be for the Grand Chapter of New York, for instance, to insert a clause in its constitution, that no Grand Chapter should be formed in its jurisdiction without its permission. But this was deemed necessary in the formation of the first Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

But this was not even considered sufficient to cement together this unnatural union. A compact was formed between the representatives from Maryland and those of the District, that for twenty years no separation should take place. Do the annals of Masonry furnish a parallel instance, *i. e.*, in which a grand body shall not be established in its jurisdiction without its permission, and then have resort to a civil compact to bind its constituents together? Therefore, was I not justified in saying that it was a misfortune that the General Grand Chapter ever gave its recognition to a jurisdiction bound together by ties so entirely before unheard of, and equally unmasonic.

No matter whether properly or improperly formed, this Grand Chapter held supreme and undisputed control over Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia until the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was formed in 1824. In 1822 the delegates of the four Chapters then in the District of Columbia—two of said Chapters being in this city, one in Georgetown, and one in Alexandria—(the latter city then being a portion of the District.) met in convention and took the preliminary steps to the formation of a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia.

They asked, and under date of August 30, 1822, obtained the assent of the General Grand High Priest to this formation. This consent we hold was entirely unnecessary, simply because the four Chapters in this jurisdiction were not working by virtue of authority derived from the constitution of the General Grand Chapter. Brook Chapter, Alexandria, having derived its charter originally from the Grand Chapter of Virginia; Potomac of Georgetown, and Union and Federal of this city, from the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia.

But, our forefathers did not consider the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia necessary as a preliminary step to the formation of their Grand Chapter, and, accordingly, did not seek the same. And from the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia of 1824, we learn that this Grand Body complained of the course of the District Chapters simply because these failed to recognize the binding force of the "constitutional provision," as well as the "compact" under the terms by which the jurisdictions were intended to be bound together till 1834. But; nevertheless, the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia gave its consent, and in 1824 the first Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was formed, and received into communion with the General Grand Chapter in 1826; and the General Grand Chapter declared that the "authority of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia over said District shall, from and after the date hereof, cease and determine, except so far as relates to Potomac Chapter."

This exception of Potomac Chapter, with great respect for the General Grand Chapter, we hold was not only irregular, but positively illegal, recognizing as it did a jurisdiction, and then authorizing the oldest Chapter therein to retain its allegiance to a foreign jurisdiction. This was a gross and palpable violation of that great cardinal principle of the

entirety of jurisdictions, which underlies the whole theory of American Masonry, and without which the integrity of no jurisdiction can be preserved, and the harmony of the whole utterly impossible. The Grand Chapter thus formed had but a brief existence. At the very threshold of its career it tamely surrendered the jurisdiction over its oldest and strongest constituent—Potomac Chapter—instead of heroically claiming and exercising its legitimate functions over its entire territory, thus illustrating that in Masonry, as in the every day walks of life, disaster will inevitably, as it should, follow a surrender of principle.

The first Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, for want of sufficient constituents, became effete and dormant in 1833.

The retrocession of Alexandria to Virginia carried Brook Chapter to that jurisdiction. Union and Federal and Temple Chapter, which had been chartered by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia—the latter being the only Chapter constituted under its *regime*—soon followed their parent and became extinct, and from 1834 or '35 to 1838 we have reason to believe no Chapter existed in this District, save and except Potomac.

In the latter year, 1838, certain companions of the District petitioned the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and improperly obtained from that body the charter of our present flourishing Columbia Chapter.

We say the Grand Chapter of Maryland improperly granted this charter; for after our own Grand Chapter entered upon its long sleep, from which, thanks to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, it has now been so thoroughly aroused, this District was, properly speaking, unoccupied territory, and continued thus until 1841, and being unoccupied it was therefore open to any State Grand Chapter which did not recognize the General Grand Chapter to charter Chapters therein, but not to Maryland, which did recognize the General Grand Chapter, in view of the fact that the latter Grand Body claims jurisdiction over all territory not occupied by a legal Grand Chapter throughout this entire country. Therefore, I hold that Maryland in chartering Columbia Chapter, in 1838, in an illegal manner, invaded the rights of the General Grand Chapter, and in this view, I am fully sustained by the action of the General Grand Chapter itself, for in 1841, when it authorized the D. Grand High Priest "to take the necessary steps to place all Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in that part of the District of Columbia which formerly belonged to the State of Maryland, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland," it also "authorized him to heal and legalize any irregularity in the issuing of any charter held by said Chapters." Reference here must necessarily have been to Columbia Chapter, and the issuing of its charter by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, as at the period alluded to there existed but two Chapters in this District—Potomac, which had its original charter of 1818, and Columbia, chartered as stated. It will be observed that in the transfer of this District to the jurisdiction of Maryland, no allusion is made or contemplated by the General Grand Chapter of reviving the old Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia, which ceased to exist in 1824.

The language of the resolution is clear and explicit. It does not say that the unnatural alliance, which existed from 1814 to 1824, shall be reformed, but simply that the D. General Grand High Priest shall place the Chapters in this District under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Md. From this action, I think, the following facts are deducible:

First, That Maryland, since 1824, has never even had the semblance of right to claim the District of Columbia as a portion of her jurisdiction. Under the direction of the General Grand Chapter, she had the right to control Chapters chartered by her, and a general supervision of the territory. All beyond this was a usurpation. Its entire right to any jurisdiction was derived from the General Grand Chapter, for its action, prior to the authority granted in 1841, was deemed so illegal by the General Grand Chapter that its acts in this District had to be healed by the D. Grand High Priest, under the authority of the General Grand Chapter. The General Grand Chapter transferred to the Grand Chapter of Maryland, during the period our own Grand Chapter remained dormant, the right which the General Grand Chapter claims over unoccupied territory, such as the issuing of charters, demanding certain fees therefor, and also fees for the exaltation of companions in Chapters which are working "by virtue of its authority." These and kindred powers were granted to Maryland, and the control of them has been permitted her uninterruptedly for twenty-six years, and under them Maryland has chartered Washington and Mount Vernon Chapters of this city, which, with Potomac and Columbia Chapters, constitute the four Chapters which have formed our present Grand Chapter. Another fact I desire to note is this, that the only right Maryland can claim over this District is derived from the General Grand Chapter's resolution of 1841. Powers and privileges not specifically given therein, or fairly deducible therefrom, she never had the right to exercise, and their enforcement, therefore, was a clear usurpation.

I hold, then, that the action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, in changing its title in 1854 to that of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and thus resuming its old pretended claim to supreme jurisdiction over this District, was an illegal act, and unwarranted by any general law or special enactment. In this brief and fragmentary outline which I have given of the history of Capitular Masonry, in this jurisdiction, I have had these objects in view: First, to show that we were not only an independent jurisdiction, but as such had been recognized by the General Grand Chapter. Secondly, that after our Grand Chapter had ceased actively to exercise its functions, the General Grand Chapter, our natural guardian, not parent, transferred whatever right it had to jurisdiction to Maryland; and lastly, that at no period of the history of Capitular Masonry in this District did there ever exist a Chapter working by virtue of the authority of the General Grand Chapter's constitution.

This statement, just given, also enables me to answer the question—why the convention failed to ask the permission of one of the first four Grand Officers of the General Grand Chapter, previously to proceeding with the formation of our Grand Chapter.

The article of the General Grand Chapter's constitution, bearing on this subject, is article 2, section 9, and is in these words: "Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, by virtue of authority derived from this constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established, so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate, provided, that the approval of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter be previously obtained." Now, our answer to this is, that we are not working in this jurisdiction under or by virtue of authority of the General Grand Chapter.

Our charters have all emanated from Maryland, and with the sanction of the General Grand Chapter, given in general terms in the resolution of 1841, and that, since that formal transfer, the General Grand Chapter has never pretended to exercise jurisdiction or supervision over any Chapter in this District, which it certainly must and should have done had it been considered that we were working under or by virtue of its authority. The General Grand Chapter claims and maintains jurisdiction over all Chapters established by itself, as will be seen by article 1, section 2, of its constitution, and by reference to section 7 of same article, it clearly states what fee shall be paid for a charter, and demands a fee for each companion exalted in any Chapter working under its jurisdiction. Now, all such power as we have said the General Grand Chapter transferred to Maryland, in 1841, and that Grand Chapter has uninterruptedly exercised them, without the slightest whisper even in the General Grand Chapter, or of any of its officers, that Maryland, in these regards, had in any degree transcended her legitimately conferred powers.

But again, there is not a power vested in a Grand Chapter of supreme authority which the Grand Chapter of Maryland has not claimed and freely put into action, and this, too, with the sanction of the General Grand Chapter. Since 1841 the Grand Chapter of Maryland has chartered the only two Chapters which have been brought into existence.

She has demanded annual returns from us, holding us as her constituents. She has claimed from us and received the fees for exaltation, and also the per capita tax, for all the members on our "rostra," as from the Chapters in Baltimore. She established a form of work and compelled our submission, although at variance with the work known to our own jurisdiction, and directly in contravention of the work authorized by the General Grand Chapter. She demands still, that the "Select" and "Royal Masters" degree shall be given before the "Royal Arch" degree, notwithstanding the General Grand Chapter has, time and again, declared the same out of order, and although through her delegates in 1853, she pledged herself that the degrees should be given as required by the General Grand Chapter.

But this pledge has been unredeemed, and we, in the District of Columbia, have been compelled, in our Chapters, to confer the degrees in accordance with the Maryland plan, and directly in opposition to the General Grand Chapter and our own sense of masonic law and custom. Of all this the General Grand Chapter has knowledge, and so far as we know

has never complained. And why not? Simply because since 1841 Maryland has had supreme authority over the Chapters in this District, the General Grand Chapter so interpreting the resolution of 1841 as giving to Maryland the exclusive jurisdiction over the Chapters.

How more than idle, then, to claim, on the part of any one, that the Chapters here are working under or by virtue of the authority of the General Grand Chapter. Nor will it do to say that the practice of Maryland in the above regards has simply been permitted by the General Grand Chapter, and that Maryland has been suffered in some way to act as an agent of the General Grand Chapter. Agencies and attorneyships are unknown in masonry. The grand body cannot, at this day, and in this country, delegate to subordinate bodies rights and powers invested in it alone, as, for instance, the ability to issue charters and do acts of like importance.

This is made clear in the case of Columbia Chapter. The work done in that Chapter prior to 1841 was, by order of the General Grand Chapter, required to be "healed" before it could be legal or the Chapter admitted to fellowship with the Chapters in association with the General Grand Chapter. Why have not Washington and Mount Vernon Chapters been held by the General Grand Chapter to a just accountability, and the work done by them to be "healed?" For the plain reason that the General Grand Chapter holds its resolution of 1841 in good faith, and pretends not to exercise jurisdiction over the District of Columbia.

If we have been working "by virtue of authority derived from the General Grand Chapter's constitution," why has not the General Grand Chapter compelled our chapter to discontinue, in obedience to its edict, the conferring of the Council, as degrees of the Chapter? We all know how improper the General Grand Chapter considers the practice, and how earnestly it desires uniformity in this regard. If we are under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter no explanation can be offered in extenuation of its conduct as evinced by its silence; but, not working by virtue of its authority, the answer is plain—we have been compelled to obey the practice in Maryland, under which authority we are. The General Grand Chapter does not require the consent of one of its first four officers as necessary to the legal formation of a Grand Chapter when the three chapters which propose to form the same are working under State authority.

Take the case of the Grand Chapter of Florida, for instance. The three chapters were chartered by the Grand Chapter of South Carolina. These chapters met in convention and formed a Grand Chapter without obtaining the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter; and when the Grand Chapter of Florida asked to be recognized by the General Grand Chapter, certain fees were claimed as due by one of the Chapters, the Chapter of St. Augustine, I think.

Those fees were not paid, and the Grand Chapter of Florida was not recognized by the General Grand Chapter. But still, all State Grand Chapters which are loyal to the General Grand Chapter hold intercourse with the Grand Chapter of Florida, the General Grand Chapter never having questioned the legality of its formation in consequence of the

"consent of one of the four officers" never having been obtained. Why? Because the Chapters in Florida were chartered by South Carolina, and not by the General Grand Chapter. Again, take the case of North Carolina. Many years ago there was a Grand Chapter there, which died out. After quite a period, it was found that there existed, scattered over the State in different sections, four Chapters. These Chapters met, formed a Grand Chapter, presented themselves to and were instantly recognized by the General Grand Chapter, although the consent of one of the first four officers was not previously obtained.

The outline of the case of N. C. is analagous to ours. But on the important point of the right to form a Grand Chapter *without* the consent of one of the "first four officers" our case is stronger than theirs. The General Grand Chapter was the natural protector of the N. C. Chapters after their Grand Chapter ceased to exist, as it was of our Chapters between 1833 and 1841. But it never transferred to another its jurisdiction over N. C. while the Grand Chapter was dormant. But it did make the transfer in our case to Maryland, and has permitted Maryland to act as our supreme head, which it could not have properly done had it considered for one moment that our Chapters were "working by virtue of authority derived from its constitution."

My companions, we were an independent jurisdiction with four Chapters working under "State authority," and we had full power to meet at any time and form a Grand Chapter without asking the permission of any one, and our Grand Chapter would have been recognized. No Royal Arch Masons in this country are more loyal to the General Grand Chapter, or have a higher respect for that body than the very companions who composed the convention which formed our Grand Chapter. And had the consent been deemed necessary most cheerfully would we have asked the same of the General Grand High Priest. But we knew "it would be a work of supererogation, and that he was too orthodox to admire such works."

I hope and believe the first official act of our Grand Chapter will be the banishment of the Council Degrees, thus showing our respect for the edicts of the General Grand Chapter.

Thus have we been compelled to traverse the footsteps of those who have gone before us in their assailment of the Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia and warfare against what we deem to be the quiet, order, peace, and dignity of the "Craft" in their disregard of rights and privileges, precedents, customs, and law. Less than the effort we have made to put ourselves and this Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia where we should be, right and fair and honorable before the Chapters and Lodges of the country, could not have been done.

In the doing of all this we utterly disclaim all personal bad feeling or ill will, either towards the Grand Chapter of Maryland or the Grand High Priest, whose acts we have passed in review. Let no man say we sought this issue, as we mean no man shall say, when forced upon us, we did not meet it fairly and fearlessly.

"In peace, there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humanity,
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,

* * * * *

Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood."

From one source, at least, we have drawn solace, amid the disquietudes which have pressed us while penning the foregoing address. The sanction of one of the four grand officers has been brought us—the Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, whose name, ability, experience, and wisdom we honor and venerate, in all matters pertaining to the "ancient craft." And if what I have said may not satisfy all doubts and scruples, we think, at least, presumption and rashness will not be so unblushing as to offer antagonism to a decision which emanates from the highest authority known among Free Masons in the United States.

I congratulate you, my companions, upon the realization of our fond hopes, in connection with the establishment of the Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia. The goal we have reached. The rewards are before us. Through all the rough and rugged way we've travelled, in the attainment of the great object of our hearts' desire, we have been sustained by the conviction of conscience and of judgment, *that the right was with us.*

And, although at times unforeseen, and seemingly unconquerable, difficulties met us in the way, and from sources whence we had the right to look for other better things, neither you or I have faltered. From first to last, but one single thought possessed us—how most, how best, we could advance the interests of the "Ancient Craft." To this our hearts were wedded, and to this alone.

And now, for the future, as in the past, so in all time to come, let us, with united hands and hearts, betake us to the work of building up, establishing, and decorating the noble and majestic "Temple," wherein are enshrined those matchless mysteries, which tell, in all their teachings, of Truth, of Charity, of Brotherly Love, by all the devotion of body and soul, unremittingly and most sincerely.

For myself, I know not what to say, without the expression of emotion, deep and fervid, for the dignity to which you have advanced me, and the honors with which you have crowned me. But ye are my witnesses, I craved not these at your hands. While places of distinction and power are not to be overlooked, or slightly passed by, while ornaments of gems and jewels are attractive and winning, mine I humbly conceive was a nobler ambition. Content should I have been, in some more undistinguishable sphere, to have labored with you, and toiled with you, in "Chapter work." In my time, I have not been without the adornments of high and jewelled honors from the "Craft;" but far above and beyond these I value the conviction of my own judgment and heart, that I have been, and am a *working Mason*, with the love of the Craft in my heart, while its honors I hold in my hand.

But you have advanced me—and as I solemnly protest, without effort or agency of mine—to this high position. The duties of this place are abundant and most responsible. I almost shrink from the contempla-

tion of them, and only am willing now to assume them, believing as I do that I shall at your hands receive all the aids which your confidence, wisdom, and experience can furnish—at all times, in all emergencies.

The scales of justice I shall hope ever to hold steadily balanced in the administration of the obligations and duties of the “High Priesthood,” and, never forgetting that

“Justice should have
No kindred, friends, nor foes, nor hate, nor love ;
As free from passion as the God above,”

I shall betake me to the work.

I know not how to express all I feel for the confidence with which you have laden me. I can only ask from Him, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, that experience, ability, and wisdom may be given me ; that I may so live and labor in the Craft as that when I shall lay aside the insignia of this high office, it may be said of me by you, my companions : he has worked well, stood by the “Craft,” and “kept the faith,” and peace be with him, and his !

Upon the conclusion of the address the other Grand Officers were duly installed, and the meeting adjourned. The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia then repaired to its hall and opened in ample form, when, on motion, it was unanimously ordered, that the inaugural address of the Grand High Priest be approved, and the Grand Secretary be directed to have one thousand copies of the same printed, and transmit one copy to each Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary in America.

CAPITULAR MASONRY

IN THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

TOGETHER WITH A

SHORT HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THE OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE
GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAP-
TER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN RELATION THERETO.

*To all Companions Royal Arch Masons in the United States,
greeting :*

For the purpose of correcting erroneous impressions, which may already have been formed in the minds of Companions, and to place ourselves right before the Masonic world, as regards the history and formation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and the conduct of all parties connected therewith, we have undertaken in this Report, to give a historical account of the formation of said Grand Chapter, together with such facts concerning the history of Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia, as we think necessary to a full and complete understanding of the present status of all the Chapters in this District.

It is well known in many jurisdictions that Most Excellent Companion John L. Lewis, G.: G.: H.: P.: of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, has attempted to interfere with the existence of the Grand Chapter in this District, and has not hesitated to declare it a clandestine and irregular body, notwithstanding he gave his free and cordial approval of the manner in which it was formed. Whether or not this interference is legitimate, or even *justifiable*, is for the several State Grand Chapters to determine; and, in order that they

may be enabled to come to just conclusions in the premises, we desire to place them in possession of the facts necessary to a full and complete understanding of our case. To that end we have thought best to embody the principal facts in a succinct form, and lay them before you.

That portion of the history of Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia which becomes interesting, (though not material,) in considering this question, commences in the year 1824, when, there being in the District the requisite number of Royal Arch Chapters to form a Grand Chapter, and the territory being under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, application was then made to De Witt Clinton, who was then Deputy General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, for permission to form a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia, which consent was granted, and a Grand Chapter duly and legally formed. In a day or two after the installation of officers, Potomac Chapter, No. 8, of Georgetown, D. C., notwithstanding she had participated in all the proceedings which had been held in forming their Grand Chapter, withdrew from it, and asked permission of the General Grand Chapter to retain her allegiance to the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland, whence she had derived her charter. This privilege was granted them by the General Grand Chapter, and Potomac Chapter went back again to the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland; still, however, leaving in the District of Columbia three Royal Arch Chapters subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. These three Chapters continued to work under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia until about the year 1836, when the Grand Chapter of the District having become defunct, in consequence of one of the three subordinate Chapters having died out and surrendered its charter, the remaining subordinate Chapters continued their work until 1842. Then the Deputy G. : G. : H. : P. :, Stapleton, placed the two remaining Chapters in the District under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland, that Grand Chapter accepting the trust, and issuing to them new charters. All the Chapters now in the District of Columbia continued to work under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland until the year 1856; then the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland was changed to that of the "State of Maryland and District of Columbia." From that time forward to the present, there has been no Grand Chapter of the "State of Maryland;" but the "Grand Chap-

ter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia" has taken its place, and has been made up of the representatives from the subordinates from the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. The officers have been about equally apportioned, and the Annual Convocations have been held alternately at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, and in Washington, in the District of Columbia.

In process of time new Chapters were formed in both Districts, all receiving their charters from the "Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia." At the date of our present troubles there were in the District of Columbia four Royal Arch Chapters, including Potomac Chapter, No. 8, of Georgetown, D. C.,) the same Chapter that withdrew from the Grand Chapter of the District in 1824,) all having derived their charters either from the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland before its consolidation, as above stated, or from the "Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia," and all in prosperous condition, and exceeding in membership those of the entire State of Maryland. The Companions in the District of Columbia, believing that the time had now arrived when the interests of Royal Arch Masonry here required a dissolution of the jurisdiction and the formation of a separate Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia, which should have exclusive jurisdiction over all subordinate Chapters in the District, went to work to ascertain the proper course necessary to the accomplishment of that object in a legitimate and legal manner; and, for the purpose of securing harmony in the outset, the following preamble and resolution were offered at the Annual Convocation of the "Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia," held November 13, 1866, to wit:

"To the GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

"COMPANIONS: The undersigned, representatives of Columbia Royal Arch Chapter, No. 15, Washington Royal Arch Chapter, No. 16, and Mount Vernon Royal Arch Chapter, No. 20, believing the time has arrived when the interests of Royal Arch Masonry require that the Chapters in the District of Columbia should be allowed to act for themselves, and under a Grand Chapter having exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, therefore respectfully request the adoption of the following resolution by the Grand Chapter of Maryland and District of Columbia:

"*Resolved*, That the connection at present existing between the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia be, and the same is hereby, dissolved, and that the Chapters in the District of Columbia be requested to form a Grand Chapter for said District of Columbia."

This resolution was signed by the following-named persons, to wit: L. G. Stephens, H. P., No. 15; John Lockie, K.,

No. 15; R. H. Boswell, jr., S. ., No. 15; Andrew Glass, H. . P. ., No. 16; William Middleton, K. ., No. 16; A. T. Longley, S. ., No. 16; C. W. Hancock, K. ., No. 20; Noble D. Larner, S. ., proxy, No. 20; Chauncey Smith, P. . H. . P. ., No. 20. [Should be No. 15.]

After considerable discussion of this resolution, the following substitute, offered by Companion Ohr, was adopted, viz :

" *Resolved*, That the matter contained in the preamble and resolution above be referred back to the Chapters of the District of Columbia, for a more full consideration and expression of their wishes in regard to said application."

Upon the matter being laid before the several Chapters of the District of Columbia, pursuant to the resolution of Companion Ohr, they all, with great unanimity, (excepting Potomac Chapter, No. 8,) resolved to insist upon a separation. But the G. . H. . P. . of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, M. . E. . C. . James G. Smith, *declared most positively* that he would not entertain the resolution again, nor again suffer the question of separation to be brought before the Grand Chapter, thus putting an end, so far as was in his power, to any further action in regard to the formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia. Seeing the door of the Grand Chapter thus closed upon them, and the right of petition denied them, the Companions entered upon an investigation of their legal Masonic rights in the premises.

Among the first questions to be considered was our relation to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, so far as related to the formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia. To determine this question recourse was had to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter on that subject. Upon an examination of this document, it was found that, by an amendment of that Constitution, adopted at the Triennial Convocation of that body, at Chicago, in 1859, the General Grand Chapter relinquished its jurisdiction over all State Grand Chapters, and over all subordinate Chapters, except those established by itself in those States, Districts, Republics, and Territories which recognize this jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Chapter established. The Chapters in the District of Columbia, not having been established by the General Grand Chapter, but by the "Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia," the Companions did not consider that it was necessary to consult one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter, as provided by section 9 of article 2 of that Constitution, which

relates only to Chapters which derived their charters from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and not from State Chapter authority, and is in the following words, to wit:

"Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly constituted and consecrated in any State, country, republic, or Territory, by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate: *Provided*, That the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter shall be first obtained. And said Chapters, by their regular officers, shall assemble in some suitable place, elect their officers, and make such rules and regulations for their government as may be necessary, not inconsistent with the regulations of the General Grand Chapter."

These Chapters, therefore, proceeded to call a convention of their several Chapters, to take into consideration the preliminary steps necessary to the formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia, without consulting one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter. This convention was a joint convention of the three Royal Arch Chapters in the city of Washington, and was called together by the High Priests of the several Chapters. Immediately after this call was issued, the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia published an edict suspending all the elective officers of said Chapters from the exercise of their several functions, and also from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, and called upon them to surrender their charters to him, for what he termed an act of insubordination and contumacy, in publishing this call. This action he took long before the time had arrived for the meeting of the convention, and without any trial, or giving the Companions an opportunity of being heard in their defence. The edict he took pains to have published to the world. . We here give it, as follows:

"OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST
"OF THE GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF MD. AND D. C.,
"WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 12, 1867.*

"Whereas notices have been issued and circulated amongst the members of Columbia Chapter, No. 15, Washington Chapter, No. 16, and Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 20, by order of the High Priests of the respective Chapters; and

"Whereas said notices are of a contumacious character, and in a spirit of rebellion against the recognized jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, from whom said Chapters received their charters; and

"Whereas it is believed that large numbers of the Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia are opposed to any act of insubordination, however much they may be in favor of a division of the jurisdiction and formation of a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia; and

"Whereas I believe it to be my duty to protect all who respect the obligations they have assumed against the destructive and disorganizing influences of the few:

"I, therefore, declare the charters of said three Chapters to be, and they are hereby, suspended; and further, that the elected officers of each (excepting Companion A. Glass, who has protested against said contumacious act) are suspended from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry until the Grand Chapter shall order their restoration; and, also, that any act of an assembly of Royal Arch Masons, members of said three Chapters, or either of them, in their capacity as Royal Arch Masons, is, and will be, illegal and clandestine. And I further order and direct the Grand Secretary to cause copies of this to be furnished to the several Chapters in the jurisdiction, and to the High Priests of the suspended Chapters.

(Signed)

"JAMES G. SMITH,
"G.: H.: P.: *Maryland and District of Columbia.*

[SEAL.] "Attest:

"W. MORRIS SMITH,
"Grand Secretary."

The Convention, nevertheless, assembled, and was largely attended, not only by the friends of the movement, but by the Companions generally, amongst the most prominent of whom was the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia. The ground upon which the measure was opposed at this Convention was, that it was first necessary to obtain the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, in order to give us the right to form a Grand Chapter. In this view several of the Companions coincided, amongst the most prominent of whom was our late M.: W.: Grand Master, George C. Whiting. Pending the discussion, however, Brother Whiting, after a careful examination of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, yielded the point, and arose in the Convention and declared that he did not think that point was well taken, and abandoned it altogether, saying, further, that he did not think the General Grand Chapter had anything to do with the matter; that it was a matter entirely between the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia; and suggesting to the Convention that, if they would adjourn without appointing delegates or taking any action, he would see the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, and that he had no doubt that the Grand Chapter would be called together in ten days, and a peaceable separation effected. This statement of Companion Whiting not being satisfactory to the Convention, and the Companions not being willing to adopt the proposition without something more definite, the Companion reluctantly stated that he had had a conversation with the Grand High Priest of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia on the subject of the meeting of this Convention, and the Grand High Priest had told him to say to the Convention, that, if they would make the request, he would call the Grand Chapter

together in ten days, and lay the matter before it. Thus he recognized the Convention as a legal body, notwithstanding he had, but a few days before, suspended the officers of the several Chapters from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, and taken away their charters, for calling it together. The Convention then yielded to the request of Brother Whiting, whereupon the following resolution (in substance) was adopted, and the Convention adjourned, viz :

"Resolved, That the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia be, and he is hereby, requested to convene the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia in Special Convocation, for the purpose of taking action upon the request of the Chapters in the District of Columbia for a separation of the jurisdiction; and if said request is not complied with within ten days, then the chairman of this Convention is hereby authorized to convene the same, that such further action may be taken as the circumstances may require."

Subsequently, the High Priests of the several Chapters surrendered their charters to the G. : H. : P. : , JAMES G. SMITH.

Pursuant to the agreement of Companion WHITING, the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia was called together, the charters returned, and the suspended Companions restored. At the same Convocation, the Grand Chapter adopted the following preamble and resolution, to wit:

"Whereas the time having now arrived when the interests of Capitular Masonry require a dissolution of this Grand Chapter, and that the District of Columbia should constitute a separate jurisdiction: therefore,

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter gives its full and cordial consent to a separation of the jurisdiction, and to the establishment of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia; and when said Grand Chapter is legally formed and constituted, the separation shall be complete, and the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter over the District of Columbia shall cease."

A committee was then appointed to divide the funds and property of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, after which the Chapter was closed, amidst the utmost good feeling and friendship, the Companions separating with a full belief that the troubles which had surrounded them had all been fully and finally adjusted, and that thenceforth we should move forward peaceably and harmoniously.

The three Chapters were then called together separately, at their respective lodge-rooms, and nine delegates chosen, including the first three officers of each Chapter, to meet in convention, elect their officers, adopt a constitution, and take all necessary steps preparatory to forming a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia. At the meeting of the Convention, 20 delegates appearing from Potomac Chapter, No. 8, and it

being announced in the Convention that Potomac Chapter intended to send delegates, the Convention adjourned without action, for the purpose of giving Potomac Chapter time to send in her delegates. At the next meeting of the Convention the four Chapters were all represented, Potomac, No. 8, having sent in her delegates. They participated in the action of the Convention, and the High Priest of that Chapter was elected Grand Scribe of the new Grand Chapter.

At this meeting officers were elected and a constitution adopted; then, after the arrangement of some unimportant matters, the Convention adjourned. Soon after this the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia issued a call for the meeting of the Grand Chapter, as we supposed, for the purpose of finally dissolving the jurisdiction, pursuant to the above resolution passed at the last Convocation, he having been officially notified by the secretary of the Convention of the time and place of installing the officers and consecrating the new Grand Chapter; but really, as we were afterwards informed, for the purpose of again taking away the charters from the several Chapters in the city of Washington for alleged insubordination, in that they had not proceeded legally, in neglecting to obtain the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Our late M. W. Grand Master, Geo. C. Whiting, who was President of the Convention, learning the views of M. E. Companion James G. Smith, Grand High Priest of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, and being informed of his object in calling the Grand Chapter together, and being also desirous of avoiding any such result, wrote to M. E. C. John L. Lewis, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and sent him a full statement of our proceedings thus far, and asked his opinion as to whether or not it was necessary to obtain the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in order to legally form a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia, and, as he would not have time to receive his answer by mail before the meeting of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, asked him to send his answer by telegraph. This he did in the following language, to wit:

"PEN YAN, N. Y., May 13, 1867.

"Consent probably unnecessary. Hereby granted if it is. Will write.

"JOHN L. LEWIS."

On the same day he wrote Companion Whiting a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"OFFICE OF THE G. G. HIGH PRIEST OF THE

"G. GRAND CHAPTER OF THE U. S. A.,

"PEN YAN, N. Y., May 13, 1867.

"GEORGE C. WHITING, Esq.

"GRAND MASTER, DEAR SIR, AND M. W. BRO.: Yours of the 11th received a short time since, and telegram sent as requested. You may be surprised at the peculiar verbiage of the telegram, and I hasten to explain. The portion of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter bearing upon the question you submit, is section 9 of article 2, which provides for the formation of a Grand Chapter by three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated, '*by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution*,' and with the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter. Your communication does not inform me whether the Chapters were regularly instituted by authority of the General Grand Chapter, or by State Chapter authority. If by Maryland, or any other State, then the approbation above required, is *clearly not required*. If by the General Grand Chapter, then the question arises whether their subsequent independence, by recognition of the latter body, does not still obviate the necessity of consent. Please advise me as to these facts.

"The question is of little practical importance, except that the consent may be a work of supererogation, and I am too orthodox to believe in such works.

"The approbation will be cheerfully and promptly given, and the order will bear date as of to-day, as indicated by my telegram. For the present, please regard this letter as *private* and *unofficial*, though not confidential.

"Very sincerely and fraternally,

"JOHN L. LEWIS, 33."

Companion Whiting replied to this letter, informing the General Grand High Priest that all of our Chapters received their charters from the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

At the meeting of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, this telegram was read by the Grand Secretary, when the Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion James G. Smith, arose and stated, that up to the time when this telegram was received, he had believed that the consent of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter of the United States was necessary to the formation of a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia, and hence he had opposed the action of the Companions, but that we now had before us the opinion of the General Grand High Priest that such consent was not necessary, and even if it was, that consent was granted. He now no longer opposed the movement, and was ready to entertain any resolution looking to the final dissolution of the jurisdiction. Thereupon the following resolution was introduced and adopted, Potomac Chapter, No. 8, and one or two others voting against the resolution:

"Whereas the Chapters in the District of Columbia have proceeded to organize a Grand Chapter in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the Special Communication of this Grand Chapter, held March 26th and 27th last, [quoted above]; therefore

"*Resolved*, That the division of the jurisdiction is hereby declared to be complete."

The representatives of Potomac Chapter then offered a resolution asking to remain under the jurisdiction of the State of Maryland, (notwithstanding they had participated in the Convention, and had taken part in the election of officers and the adoption of a constitution, &c.) But the Grand High Priest refused to entertain the resolution, and declared emphatically that Potomac Chapter could not retain her allegiance to the State of Maryland, but must take her charter from, and be subordinate to, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Companion J. G. Smith, Grand High Priest, then addressed the Grand Chapter, thanking them for their many acts of kindness towards him, and closed by stating that as he was a member of a Chapter in the District of Columbia, [Columbia Chapter, No. 15,] he was no longer eligible to hold the position of Grand High Priest of that Grand Chapter, and closed by declaring the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia dissolved, and called the Deputy Grand High Priest to the East.

Thus matters stood, and the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia was duly and forever dissolved. The time appointed for the installation of the officers of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was the 23d day of May, 1867, and the ceremonies were to take place in Washington City. On the day appointed there was the largest Masonic procession ever seen in this District. The Grand Lodge turned out, and the Masonic fraternity generally participated in celebrating the event as a new era in the history of Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia. Both Commanderies of Knights Templar were called out to act as an escort to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. The ceremonies were performed by Most Excellent Companion A. G. Mackey, (acting as installing officer,) P.: G.: G.: H.: P.: of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and P.: G.: G.: S.: B. B. French, of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, acted as master of ceremonies. The officers were installed and the Chapter consecrated in the presence of one of the largest assemblages ever held in Washington. Every thing pertaining to the ceremonies passed off smoothly and pleasantly.

Again we were led to believe that our Masonic troubles in this District were at an end; yet again were we doomed to disappointment, our troubles having now only just begun, as the sequel will show. Soon after the installation of the officers of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, Companion

James G. Smith, P.: G.: H.: P.: of the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and District of Columbia, joined with the dissatisfied members of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, in their efforts to destroy the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, notwithstanding he had declared to the representatives of Potomac Chapter that they must take their charter from the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, or be considered clandestine and irregular. The Grand Chapter summoned him to appear before that body to show cause why he should not be subject to Masonic discipline for such conduct. He disregarded the summons, and for this contempt was suspended; not for affiliating with Potomac Chapter, as some supposed, he being at the time a member of Columbia Chapter, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Potomac Chapter now refused to take a charter from the new Grand Chapter, or to recognize her as a legal Masonic body, and persisted in her work under her old charter, derived from the Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland. Per consequence, she was soon after declared clandestine and irregular by the new Grand Chapter. She now ignored her allegiance to the State of Maryland, and flew to the arms of the General Grand High Priest of the United States for protection. Upon representations made to Most Excellent Companion John L. Lewis, G.: G.: H.: P.: of the General Grand Chapter, that officer issued the following circular letter, authorizing Potomac Chapter to work in disregard of the authority of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and in opposition to the decision of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, that said Chapter belonged to the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, viz.:

"OFFICE OF THE GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST,
"PENN YAN, N. Y., June 4, 1867.

"To all Companion Royal Arch Masons within our jurisdiction, Greeting:

"Know ye, That, having examined and considered the situation and condition of Potomac Chapter, No. 8, in the District of Columbia, and its rights under its warrant, we do hereby decide and determine that said Potomac Chapter may continue its labors as heretofore, under and by virtue of its warrant, any assumption of authority by any Companion or body of Companions, save the Officers and Companions of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, or of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, to the contrary notwithstanding; and for so doing this shall be the warrant and authority of said Potomac Chapter, No. 8.

"(Signed)

JOHN L. LEWIS, 33:.

"G.: G.: High Priest."

[SEAL]

This very singular document was given general circulation, under the seal of Potomac Chapter, instead of the seal of the General Grand Chapter.

On the 13th of July last, the G. G. High Priest, John L. Lewis, issued the following edict, viz :

"OFFICE OF THE G. G. HIGH PRIEST
OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF U. S. A.,
"PENN YAN, July 13, 1867.

"To all Companion Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, Greeting:

"Whereas a body, claiming to be the 'Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia,' having, on the 19th of June last, assumed to exercise acts of discipline upon M. E. Companion James G. Smith, P. G. High Priest, by suspending him indefinitely from the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, he has claimed the protection of the General Grand Chapter; and

"Whereas an examination of the points involved in this case have necessarily led me into an investigation of the standing and Masonic relations of Potomac Chapter No. 8, of which M. E. Companion Smith was and is a member, and also those of the body claiming to be a Grand Chapter, and to exercise jurisdiction over M. E. Companion Smith; and from this investigation I am brought to the conclusion that Potomac Chapter has been guilty of no irregularity, while that of the Companions who formed the so-called Grand Chapter has been hasty and irregular, and that the latter body has in fact no legal existence as a Masonic body, its preliminary Convention having been held without the authority of any General Grand officer, and been illegally constituted; and

"Whereas said body has assumed to declare said Potomac Chapter to be irregular and clandestine, and to forbid Masonic intercourse with it and its members, and has in other ways endeavored to interfere with the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masons within said District:

"Now, therefore, as General Grand High Priest, I do hereby ordain, declare, and proclaim the said body, claiming to be the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia to have no valid legal existence, and hence to be irregular and clandestine; and all Grand Chapters, subordinate Chapters, and Royal Arch Masons within our jurisdiction are hereby enjoined and strictly forbidden from having any Masonic intercourse with, or from any recognition of the authority of, said so-called Grand Chapter, as such; and the Chapters and Companions who formed and now assist to compose the same are required to withdraw from and abandon such illegal organization within one month from the date of service of a copy of this order, or be subject to penalty. And the High Priest of said Potomac Chapter is hereby directed to have such copies prepared and served, under the seal of his Chapter, with all convenient speed.

"And, in the meantime, I would earnestly and fraternally exhort said Companion Royal Arch Masons to pause and deliberate, and institute proper and legal measures for a regular organization as a Grand Chapter, pursuant to the General Grand Constitutions and the usages of Royal Arch Masonry, assuring them of the cordial sympathy and co-operation of the General Grand officers in so doing.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and private seal, at the place and date first above written.

"JOHN L. LEWIS, 33.
"G. G. High Priest.
[SEAL.]

"Attest:

"SAMUEL F. PRIMROSE,

"Secretary Potomac Chapter, No. 8."

[SEAL.]

Thus matters stand. We have now five Royal Arch Chapters in the District of Columbia, besides Potomac, No. 8. These five,

who all recognize the Grand Chapter of the District, have a membership of over five hundred, while those opposed, including Potomac Chapter, do not number more than about one hundred.

As this Report is not intended for an argument in favor of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, but merely to give the material facts relative to its formation, we shall content ourselves with quoting that portion of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter which bears upon this question and upon the powers of the General Grand Chapter itself. That portion of the General Grand Chapter Constitution which defines its powers reads as follows, beginning—

“ART. 1, SEC. 2. The General Grand Chapter receives all its powers, faculties, and prerogatives by grant and delegation from the several State Grand Chapters; and it can have and possess no other powers than such as are expressly granted and delegated to it by them, or as are indispensably necessary to the exercise of its general powers and consistent with the nature of the confederation between the State Grand Chapters. It can exercise no doubtful powers, nor any powers by implication merely; and all Masonic powers not hereby granted to it are reserved to the Grand and subordinate Chapters of the several States.

“It shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all Chapters established by itself in those States, Districts, Republics, and Territories which recognize this jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Chapter established.

“It shall have power to decide all questions of Masonic law, usage, and custom which may arise between any two or more Grand Chapters, or in any of the subordinate Chapters under its own immediate jurisdiction, and all that may be referred to it for its decision, by any Grand Chapter, by formal vote; and its decisions so made shall be deemed and regarded as those of the supreme judicial tribunal of Royal Arch Masonry in the last resort.

“It shall have no power of discipline, admonition, censure or instruction over the Grand Chapters, nor any legislative powers whatever, not hereby specially granted, nor any authority to suspend the proceedings of any State Grand Chapters, nor shall entertain any complaint against a Grand Chapter, preferred by any subordinate Chapter or individual Mason in that jurisdiction or elsewhere; but it may, upon proper reference to it of any matter of controversy between any two or more Grand Chapters, and even where the question is not one of Masonic law, custom, or usage, (both or all such Grand Chapters consenting to such reference,) act as final arbiter between them, and settle such controversy.

“It shall judge of the qualifications of its own members. It shall see that the ancient work of the Order is preserved in the several degrees, and establish uniform formulas for installation of its own officers and those of Grand and subordinate Chapters, for the consecration and constitution of Chapters, and the opening of Grand Chapters; *and it may suspend the proceedings of any Chapter, under its own immediate jurisdiction, in any State, District, or Territory where there is no Grand Chapter, for any willful violation of any of the provisions of this Constitution, or for gross unmasonic proceedings or conduct.*”

By a careful examination of that portion of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter above quoted, the reader can very readily determine whether or not the G. G. H. Priest possesses any such powers as are attempted to be exercised in the foregoing edicts.

That portion of the Constitution bearing upon the question of the necessity of obtaining the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter, as we have stated above, is Sec. 9, of Art. II, which we have already quoted. But, to be properly understood, this section should be read and considered in connection with the second subdivision of Sec. 2, Art. I, above quoted, and Sections 6 and 7 of Art. I, and Sec. 9, of Art. II, which read as follows:

SEC. 6. The General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispensations, for a limited length of time, for new Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of the appendant Orders, in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established, when in their opinion the good of the Craft may require the same, which term of time shall in no case extend beyond the close of the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory where there is a Chapter within a reasonable distance, under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located; and in all cases of such Dispensation, the officer who may grant the same shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, and make report of the same at the next triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter, when the General Grand Chapter may grant the said Chapter a Charter.

SEC. 7. The fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter, with subordinate degrees, shall be ninety dollars, and no more; and no credit shall be given for Dispensations or Charters, or for conferring the degrees, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction. And every Chapter holden by Dispensation or Charter under this jurisdiction shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Chapter the sum of two dollars for each Companion therein exalted, until such time as a Grand Chapter shall be regularly established in the State, Country, Republic, or Territory in which such subordinate Chapter is located. The Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners ten dollars for his services in furnishing the Charter.

SEC. 9. Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established, so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate; *Provided*, That the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter be first obtained. And said Grand Chapters, by their regular officers, shall assemble in some suitable place, elect their officers, and make such rules and regulations for their government as may be necessary—not inconsistent with the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

Thus we have given you a brief, but correct, history of all the material facts concerning the formation of our Grand Chapter, together with the official acts of the officers assuming responsibilities in the premises. Now, in conclusion, we ask, Where are the acts of "insubordination and contumacy" complained of by the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, that would justify him in revoking Charters which it was not in his power to grant; and especially justify the exercise by this officer of that power, by which he, by his simple edict, suspended Com-

panions "from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry," without trial and without even giving them a chance to be heard in their defence?

And what is there in our case that renders it so anomalous as to justify a suspension of, or a departure from, all the express provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the General Grand Chapter of the United States on the part of the General Grand High Priest, and in ignoring the very instrument that gives him his official life and breath, and which provides that he shall have no power of discipline, admonition, censure, or instruction over the Grand Chapters; and which also provides, that he shall not entertain any complaint against a Grand Chapter preferred by a subordinate Chapter or individual Mason, in that jurisdiction or elsewhere. (*See Sec. 2, Art. I, above quoted.*)

There is not now, nor has there ever been, any disposition on the part of this Grand Chapter to ignore the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, to set at naught its authority, or to act independently of it in matters affecting our relations to that body; but we do object to being interfered with by the officers of that body, in direct violation, as we believe, of their Constitution and Laws; especially when such interference is calculated to interrupt our intercourse with other Masonic bodies, and sever the ties of fraternal love and friendship, which now bind us together throughout the several States; and what is more and most to be deplored, break up and destroy our beloved institution within our borders.

Companions, we humbly submit to you that in all our transactions relative to this matter, we have acted fairly, calmly, dispassionately, and charitably toward all parties concerned. We first asked the consent of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia for a separation. The Grand High Priest shut the door in our faces and would not listen to our request. We then assembled in Convention to consult as to what course was best to pursue. Upon being informed that the Grand High Priest had relented, we listened to his messenger, and at his request adjourned the Convention without action. We again asked their consent, which was cordially and unconditionally given. To us this seemed sufficient, as that was the only Masonic body on earth that had any right to interfere. But to satisfy those who thought differently, consent, as heretofore shown, was obtained from the General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. Having now performed every act and thing which we believed necessary to be done, according to well-established

rules of Masonic Law on this subject, we must now rest content and await the result, having full confidence in that time-honored maxim, "*Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*"

GRAND R.: A.: CHAPTER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY,
WASHINGTON, *October 8, 1867.*

At a Special Convocation of the Grand R.: A.: Chapter of the District of Columbia, held on the 5th instant, the Grand Secretary was directed to transmit a copy of the foregoing statement of facts relating to the formation of said Grand Chapter to the various Grand Chapters in the United States for their information.

NOBLE D. LARNER,
Grand Secretary.





